





# Ministers fire early shots in what may prove campaign for the next general election

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

By stepping up their campaign against the Conservatives at the weekend in the wake of the party conference, Mr Callaghan and other ministers gave the impression that they were making early preparations to alert party workers for the general election battle, expected next year.

Their main task on Saturday was to try to undermine the effects of the Conservative conference, at which Mrs Thatcher and other party spokesmen sought to win over former Labour voters with an array of policy declarations (without details) that had a popular appeal.

The Prime Minister said at Cambridge that he thought the Conservatives were wrong to try to make people believe there was a great desire for confrontation between a handful of trade union leaders and the Conservative Party.

"If we had a Conservative Government, which I fully intend to try to prevent, I would worry that they might misread the situation," he said. "I see no great signs that they understand what is happening in the trade unions."

Mrs Thatcher might drift into a confrontation through her failure to understand "what is driving people in the unions".

He said: "You can have a confrontation just as easily through insensitivity or an inability to comprehend the situation." He much doubted whether Mrs Thatcher's idea of holding a referendum to decide the issue in any confrontation between a Tory government and various workers.

He aimed another blow at Mrs Thatcher when he spoke at the Labour Party's eastern regional conference at Cam-

bridge. Speaking about defence and foreign affairs, he said that his Government would continue to maintain Britain's defensive strength "at a proper level".

"But in conjunction with that, peace will be best secured not by the 'cold-war shrieks' that we get from some Conservatives but by the hard slog of negotiations and the constant search for agreement which will lessen the balance of terror but leave our side at least as secure as it is today."

Mr Orme, Minister for Social Security and a member of the Cabinet, said in Salford yesterday: "The party conferences have driven the battle lines for the coming general election."

The future of the welfare state will be at the centre of the argument. The choice will be between a Tory policy of 'Devil take the hindmost' and 'let the weakest look after themselves', and Labour's firm commitment to a universal service, based on increasing public expenditure.

Mr Foot, Leader of the Commons, speaking at Waltham Abbey on Saturday, said that without the many measures taken by the Government, the unemployment figures would be several hundred thousand worse than they were.

"These, however, are the very measures which the mad monetarists, headed by Sir Keith Joseph, would forbid altogether, if we were ever foolish enough to give them the chance."

Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Education and Science, speaking at Cambridge, said that Sir Geoffrey Howe,

at the Conservative conference had offered the country tax cuts across the board: for high-income earners, for investors, for companies, for capital, for those just in the tax bracket, indeed something for everyone.

"How will he pay for it?" she asked. "He will greatly increase indirect taxes, though he did not say much about that, he would dramatically push up the cost of living. He will encourage a big rise in rents. He will cut public expenditure savagely."

The Government had been forced to make painful spending cuts, and they were still working their miserable way through the public services. "Yet what the Tories propose would make that look like chickenfeed," she added.

Mr Joel Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, speaking at Rochdale to a "Youth against Unemployment" rally, said: "I hope we will not allow our sincerely held differences about how to solve the appalling problems of youth unemployment to obscure the hypocrisy of our Conservative opponents, and the need for us to unite to prevent them introducing policies which, whatever they say to the contrary, must result in a substantial increase in unemployment."

Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, again confirmed the Conservatives' fears that he is likely to steal some of their clothes before the year is out. He said in Cardiff that the Government had got the financial basis of the economy right and there was now a chance to increase productivity and jobs.

I have been thinking for a few weeks about a further stimulus to the economy before Christmas," he said. He might perhaps give more tax relief.

## Britain takes to a new sport and its jargon

By Alan Hamilton

Four of the world's leading exponents of the nose wheeler, the canyons, the moonwalk, the endover and the duff, not to mention the bowl rush, the christie and the tail wheelie, have arrived in London from the United States to give a series of demonstrations of their art.

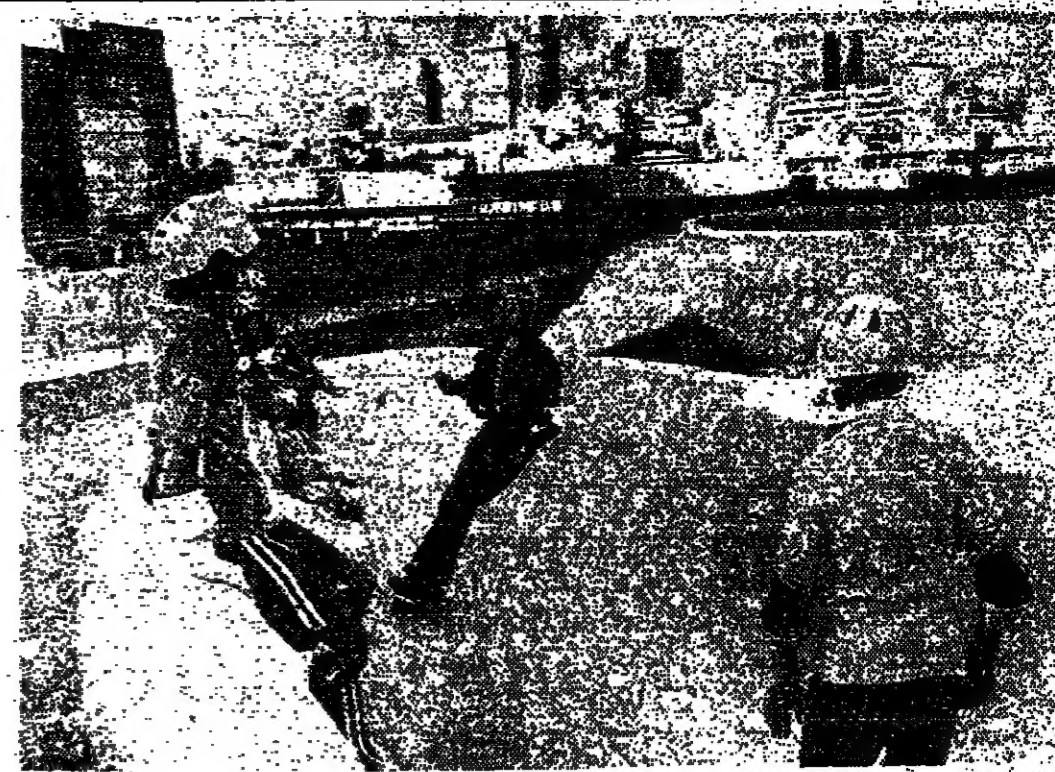
The Hobie professional team is a corps de ballet of world skateboard champions. It will give its first exhibition today at Skate City, Southwark, south London. One of only three purpose-built skateboarding parks in Britain.

Thereafter the team will undertake a national tour, in the hope that sympathetic local authorities will allow it to use multi-storey car parks or concrete catwalks beneath some of the less attractive shopping precincts.

The skateboard, the natural heir to the roller skate, the yo-yo and the hula hoop, has taken such a hold of British urban youth that within the past month it has been recognized by the Sports Council, thus being elevated above a mere craze to the level of a serious sport. The council estimates that there are two million boards rolling on city pavements.

Shops are selling boards from £12 upwards, as fast as they can import them. The best come from California, the sport's spiritual home, but a domestic industry is in the making, and there are even the first signs of an export trade. A Sussex sports shop, Lush, has a skateboarder's shop, and a Middle East buyer with a board for £1,943.91: it had gold-plated ends and 64 small diamonds instead of ball bearings.

Skateboarding developed in the 1960s on the west coast of the United States, the home of many outlandish enthusiasms, as a land alternative to surfing. But the explosion of interest did not come until the early 1970s, with the invention of the local hospital safety urethane, a synthetic material with an unusually good grip on concrete.



Young enthusiasts testing one of the concrete bowls at the new skateboarding park in Southwark, south London.

Several local authorities, alarmed at the danger to pedestrians, are trying to ban the sport from pavements. In west London, Kensington has followed the users of a particularly fine racetrack in Kensington Gardens by covering it with gravel.

In Nottingham, where the city centre has a fine array of concrete ramps and stairs, it is treating a skateboarding fracture every day, and the city's road safety officer, Mr James Street, has appealed to parents not to buy their children boards for Christmas unless they know they will be used on a properly prepared rink, with the rider wearing the recommended safety equipment of crash helmet and elbow and knee pads.

Mr Barry Walsh, chairman of the new British Skateboard Association, which has the support of the Sports Council and the British Safety Council, thinks there has been some irresponsible among manufacturers in the past year, selling boards as fast as they can without promoting the associated safety equipment.

One of Mr Walsh's first tasks will be to seek a British Standard for safety equipment. Then he wants to promote skateboarding clubs, with proper supervision and tuition, and by the end of next year he hopes to have established an official British national championship.

Both manufacturers and the association are agreed on the need for more facilities to keep skateboarders off the streets. Local authorities are naturally reticent, being already short of money and also unsure how long the craze will last.

Estimates for the cost of building a skate park with a concrete bowl, the skateboarder's equivalent of a motor cyclist's wall of death, range from £30,000 to £50,000.

But many young skateboarders prefer the freedom of the open road, as is shown by the continuing popularity of the concrete sculpture of the South Bank in London as a venue for another unofficial racecourse of great popularity is Greenwich Park, with its long, sloping smooth paths.

It is a precarious, competitive activity, the most thrilling thing since surfing, and a tremendous antidote to the urban boredom of city children. And boredom causes more accidents than skateboarding, a skateboard supplier said.

It may therefore be some time before the sport wipes out, or, as pedestrians say in our jargon, falls off.

## Police keep NF from anti-racist march

By a Staff Reporter

More than a thousand yesterday ensured that there were no clashes when an anti-racist march of 3,000 people passed through the heart of London.

Thirteen people are to be charged with obstructing the march. The march was held in Old Street, north London, near the Old Kent Road.

Potentially the most serious moment was when the marchers, mainly white, apparently left-wing, came to a halt at the intersection of Old Kent Road and Old Kent Road. A group of several of the Front's supporters blocked the march with their arms raised, and could do no more than hurl abuse at the marchers.

Elsewhere several anti-racist Front supporters blocked the marchers, but the police strategy of massive force proved highly successful.

The march started in Old Kent Road and ended in Old Kent Road. The march was held in Old Kent Road, north London, near the Old Kent Road.

Mr Kodikara, a middle-aged man, said the march was non-sectarian and anti-racist. He said the march was held in Old Kent Road, north London, near the Old Kent Road.

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## Scottish Labour Party in need of money and members if it is to develop

From Ronald Faux  
Ayr

The Scottish Labour Party emerged from its second congress yesterday in Ayr clinging tenaciously to life but with formidable obstacles threatening its development as a relevant and broadly based political force.

It has neither the resources of the official Labour Party, which has shown little sign of losing Scottish support to its breakaway relative, nor the charisma of the Scottish National Party, which also projects self-government for Scotland.

Nor has the breakaway party any contact with or even tacit support from the executive level of the Scottish Trades Union Congress. It is officially cut off from the broad band of Labour support, for which competition is fierce.

Outside a strictly Scottish framework, the party has no resources with which to fight, for funds are running low and membership is well below target.

Mr James Sillars, party chairman and MP for South Ayrshire, made it clear yesterday that the party would aim for the Scottish rather than Westminster targets. There is little option. Whether Mr Sillars could hold South Ayrshire for the party remains to be seen.

The departure from politics of Mr John Robertson, MP for Paisley, who also left Labour to join the breakaway group, means that the party's Westminster representation could be annihilated at the next election.

Mr Sillars said that his choice would be for an Edinburgh assembly rather than a seat at Westminster. He added that his party would operate solely in a Scottish forum, which he believed was where the future of Scottish political life lay. Everything depended, however, on what happened to the Scottish assembly Bill.

Mr Robertson told delegates there was a small hope but no certainty that a Scottish assembly would be established during this Parliament.

"It is right to give Westminster one more chance to produce the goods, but the Scots should make it clear that this is a last chance. If by this time next year there is not a Scottish assembly established by law, Scots will have to grasp the nettle themselves," he said.

Party officials said 70 Scottish Labour candidates, about half the possible total, would stand for the Scottish assembly elections, and the party would be making a strong effort in the regional elections in May.

It was certainly a more level and mature conference than the strife-torn event of last year, when the ultra-left were accused of attempting a takeover.

The hundred or more delegates in Ayr town had debated a broad range of Scottish issues, and a strong republican element in the party brought two issues to within a card vote of success.

One resolution supported the creation of a democratically elected head of state in an independent Scotland, and the second condemned the spending on the silver jubilee celebrations in a year of record Scottish unemployment as flaunting privilege in the face of ordinary people.

The party executive had asked the conference to oppose the resolutions, not out of deference to the monarchy but because there were weightier topics to debate.

Mr Paul Ensor, chairman of the Wycombe Conservative Association, has said (not to Mr Prentice, who has not yet been in touch) that if the former minister applied he would receive consideration, but the chance of such a new recruit being chosen seems slim. Mr Prentice acknowledges that he would be fortunate if he succeeded in his first attempt to find a constituency.

The Wycombe selection committee meets on Wednesday to begin the process of selecting a new candidate, and several hundred aspiring politicians, including some former Conservative MPs, are expected to attempt the first hurdle.

Yesterday Mr Prentice answered those who have criticised him for not resigning at Newham, North-East, his present constituency, and standing there under his new Conservative colours.

## Mr Prentice in hope of a Tory offer at Wycombe

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Prentice, the former Labour Cabinet minister, who is looking for a Conservative constituency association willing to adopt him as its prospective parliamentary candidate for the next general election, hopes that his name will go forward for consideration at Wycombe. Sir John Hall, the constituency's MP for almost 25 years, is not to seek reelection.

The former minister, who announced his move from Labour to the Conservative Party only a week ago, will have to move quickly, and against strong competition. Even yesterday he could not claim to be a paid-up member of the party.

His application to join Croydon, Central, Conservative association was in the post and is expected to arrive in the office today.

Nevertheless, he has received a warm welcome letter from Mr Peter Bowness, chairman of the association, to whom he wrote applying for membership.

Mr Prentice's next move will be to get himself included on the Conservative Central Office's list of approved candidates. He should have no difficulty there, because Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, has indicated that she would like to see him standing as a Conservative at the general election.

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Yesterday Mr Prentice answered those who have criticised him for not resigning at Newham, North-East, his present constituency, and standing there under his new Conservative colours.

He gave four reasons for not resigning. First, an MP is not a delegate; he owes his constituents the duty of using his judgment on their behalf.

Secondly, there were precedents in political history for his decision, and nearly all the MPs concerned had stayed through the life of the relevant parliament representing the constituency for which they had been elected. The most recent examples had been Mr Alan Brown (Tottenham), Mr Desmond Donnelly (Pembroke), and Mr Christopher Mayhew (Greenwich, Woolwich, East).

Thirdly, Mr Prentice said, "this is a dying Parliament, or should be. It is not the same as I had announced my decision after Parliament had run only six months of a five-year term."

His fourth reason was that there was a real chance of an excellent Conservative candidate at Newham, North-East. He will receive the Conservative whip when the Commons return to Westminster for prorogation on Wednesday week.

Anti-EEC campaign: Mr John Lee, Labour MP for Birmingham, Handsworth, who has announced that he will not be standing in his constituency at the next general election, said yesterday that he would fight as a "Get Britain Out" candidate at Newham, North-East (the Press Association reports).

## Carbon dioxide increase brings temperature rise

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

An investigation by the Meteorological Office at Bracknell, Berkshire, suggests that discharge of man-produced carbon dioxide and dust to the atmosphere has a far greater effect on the climate than sunspot activity.

The study, by Mr M. K. Miles and Mr P. B. Gildersleeves, concludes that sunspot activity is insignificant among the likely causes of climatic fluctuations over the past one hundred years, and a doubling of the carbon dioxide from 305 parts a million to 610 would give the hemisphere a rise in temperature of between 1.77 and 2.23°C.

Details of the mathematical method to determine the important factors causing the warming and cooling of the atmosphere are described in the latest issue of the office's monthly magazine.

A series of elaborate equations needed to identify a possible correlation between changes in climate and concentrations of carbon dioxide, dust, sunspot activity, the extent of the Arctic ice field, patterns of prevailing winds, and so on, were first tested with a computer programme that has been devised for searching for cause and effect relationships by medical research workers with a technique known as multiple regression analysis.

The procedure has now been applied on the new large computer systems available for meteorological work, and the group are to extend examination to climatic changes back to 1665. Similar advances in weather observations of the ice sheet by satellite have provided accurate data for that time of investigation.

Records from 1870 start when the small amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere came mainly from natural sources and was more or less constant. Subsequently, the amount has risen continuously, whereas the dust measured by the volcanic dust cloud index has declined, with a brief rise in the 1950s.

The amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere alters the "greenhouse" properties by changing the capacity of the atmosphere to admit solar radiation. Solar radiation is converted to a longer-wave terrestrial infrared radiation after it has reached the Earth, and a layer of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere absorbs that type of radiation strongly, thus preventing it from escaping and providing the greenhouse effect.

Dust levels are important because dust tends to reflect solar radiation back into space, and the analysis indicates that the clearing of dust from a peak concentration in 1885-89 up to 1920-24 provided a warming of more than 0.3°C.

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## Clothing trade 'threatened by low pay'

By Our Labour Staff

The clothing industry needs big increases in both pay and productivity if it is to survive, a Low Pay Unit report published today states.

The report proposes a steadily rising minimum wage for the industry, and government pressure on firms to become more efficient.

Low wages, a declining workforce and the growth of imports are causing havoc, it declares. The report suggests that after a disappointing response to an offer of govern-

ment aid, firms should again be given the opportunity of taking up to £20m in grants by the end of this year.

If they do not, it argues, employers should expect greater government intervention designed to achieve higher productivity.

Meanwhile the minimum wage of the industry should be pushed nearer to the £48 a week being sought by the TUC for low-paid workers.

The report says that women, who form a large majority of clothing industry workers, earn on average £33.10 a week, compared with £39.70 earned by women workers on average.

It says wages are so low in the industry that one in eight full-time workers has a take-home wage below the "supplementary benefit poverty line for a single person". In April, 1976, men in the industry were paid on average £50 a week, £15.10 less than male workers generally.

From Rags to Rags (Low Pay Unit, 9 Poland Street, London, W1



## HOME NEWS

## Booth hint of increased powers for Acas on union recognition

By Our Political Correspondent

It would go against the spirit of British industrial practices for the Government to introduce legislation to make the recommendations of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) enforceable by law, Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, said yesterday.

He was answering questions about the Grunwick dispute in north London. A mass picket of several thousand trade unionists is expected at the plant processing factory today, despite an appeal by the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apecs), the union involved, for it to be called off.

It was suggested to Mr Booth that the independent television programme, *Weekend World*, that many employers in medium-sized factories would be likely to follow the lead of Mr George Ward, the Grunwick managing director, in refusing to recognize trade unions, and that many trade unionists feared that that would happen.

Mr Booth said he did not share that fear. He said that Acas was an eminently reasonable body which went about its task in a fair and open way. It had resolved many union recognition questions. It was backed by the CBI and the TUC and both employers and unions had much confidence in it.

"I am asked to consider that Grunwick is not untypical and that employers are not going to cooperate with Mr Booth said. "I think that is unlikely. But if I am wrong, if there are a large number of others who take Mr Ward as their mentor and guide, we would have to consider giving additional powers."

In a statement issued in his constituency of Barrow-in-Furness yesterday Mr Booth commented on the Grunwick dispute.

More than a thousand people are expected to take part in the picket line today, and three thousand more tomorrow, he said.

Front cronicles in the East of London.

Thirteen people are expected to be arrested at the picket line today, he said.

Mr Booth said that the picket line was a legitimate form of industrial action.

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## Treasury 'is clinging to Victorian tax concept'

By Annabel Ferriman

No department in Whitehall has clung more tenaciously to the concept of the Victorian era than the Treasury, Miss Betty Lockwood, chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, said at a conference on sex discrimination and tax in London on Saturday.

"If the principles of sex equality are to be introduced, the Treasury must look at the question of taxation," she said.

The commission wants the Chancellor to amend section 37 of the Taxes Act, which states that for tax purposes a man owns his wife's income. It had made representations to the Treasury, but with little result so far, she said.

"We are saying a woman should be recognized as an individual in her own right. The commission feels that in this respect the Treasury and the Chancellor are dragging their feet and there is a need for drastic change."

The Treasury had promised to produce a draft on separate assessment of husbands and wives, but that scheme better known, she added. Under separate assessment the wife is able to fill in her own tax form, which is sent to her in her name. Any personal allowances to which the couple are entitled are added together and divided between them in proportion to their incomes, instead of the higher married man's allowance all going to the husband.

The total tax bill is the same, whereas in the case of the wife's earned income election husband and wife are taxed separately and the tax bill is lower if they are high earners.

Leading article, page 13

By Martin Huckerby

Building work should start soon on Britain's first post-graduate school of music, the Britten-Pears School for Advanced Musical Studies at Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

The provision and extension of practice, rehearsal and lecture rooms at the Snape Maltings, near Aldeburgh, should make possible full-time opening of the school next year.

An appeal for £600,000 to provide the new facilities was launched two years ago and Mr John Trew, secretary of the

Aldeburgh Festival-Snape Maltings Foundation Ltd, said that so far they had raised, in contributions and promises, just under £300,000, including a £50,000 grant from the Arts Council.

A new effort to raise the remaining funds is expected to be announced in the next few weeks. It will be known as the Britten Memorial Appeal.

The appeal will provide a permanent means of commemorating Britten, who died earlier this year. The composer will be making a posthumous contribution towards the project through the rights deriving

from the copyright of his works.

At present the school operates somewhat spasmodically, with courses in singing and string-playing being held between March and October/November. Once the new buildings are complete the course will be considerably extended to provide a full-time institution for young musicians on the threshold of a professional career.

The aim is to concentrate on singing and string-playing, with Mr Peter Barry as director of singing and Mr Cecil Aronowitz as director of strings.

## By



## WEST EUROPE

## Cars blaze as extremists battle with police on anniversary of Catalan leader's execution

From Harry Debelius  
Madrid, Oct 16

Extremists threw about 100 petrol bombs in Barcelona, setting several parked cars on fire and injuring seven policemen, according to an official statement today.

Hundreds of demonstrators belonging to the International Spanish Communist Party (PCEI), which is to the left of the main Spanish Communist Party (PCE), battled with riot police for several hours on Saturday night in the city centre.

Hit by metal pellets fired from slingshots as well as by firebombs, police fought back with rubber bullets and smoke grenades. The leftists staged their demonstration in favour of Catalan separatism on the thirty-seventh anniversary of the execution of President Luis Companys of the Generalitat, the autonomous Catalan government.

Police have taken out a warrant for the arrest of Señor Alberto Royuela, a fascist activist and president of the Brotherhood of Franco's Guard,

an extreme right-wing organization. He is wanted for questioning about a bomb explosion at the offices of the Barcelona-based humour magazine *El Pápagu* on September 20. Two people died in the explosion.

During the weekend, Señor Royuela telephoned a Barcelona newspaper to say he knows only three of the 13 persons arrested in connexion with the bombing. He told the newspaper that he never placed a bomb or carried a pistol.

Another Barcelona newspaper, *Mundo Diario*, received a communiqué from the right-wing terrorist movement known as the Triple-A (Apostolic Anticomunist Alliance) in which attacks on "a Catalan leftist leader" and two publications were threatened unless Señor Miguel Gomez Benet, the prime suspect held in the *El Pápagu* bombing, is released.

In the Mediterranean city of Valencia, a man claiming to be a member of Grapo (the First of October antifascist revolutionary groups) held up a savings bank on Saturday but got away with only 50,000 pesetas (£538).

Meanwhile Madrid police have named the chief suspect in the killing of a police captain on September 27 as Señor Juan Martín. Luna, a 25-year-old welder, who was arrested last Sunday along with 17 other members of Grapo. Police are still looking for an accomplice.

Two "safe houses" used by Grapo were discovered in the capital last Wednesday. They contained arms and propaganda, stolen military uniforms and other items.

Near the Basque city of San Sebastián, police defused a bomb at the mountainous site of a television mast. Police suspect the device was planted by the separatist ETA (Basque Homeland and Liberty), whose members blew up three other aerials in the Basque country last Wednesday.

At a political rally of the right-wing National Alliance, Señor Manuel Fraga Iribarne, leader of the party and a former ambassador to London, said: "Public order is rapidly disintegrating. And instead of saying that this state of affairs must cease, they give one stonemason after another."

## Couple held in hunt for Patino kidnappers

From Our Correspondent  
Geneva, Oct 16

Swiss police today detained two foreigners, a man and a woman, for questioning in connexion with the kidnapping of five-year-old Graciela Ortíz-Patino, whose parents paid \$2m (£1.5m) for her release.

They are being brought to Geneva for questioning. According to the police here they are suspected of having been "living clandestinely" in the Geneva region during the 11 days between the kidnapping of the child and her release on Thursday.

Early this morning a police patrol checking on a car park near Zofingen noticed a wine-coloured Alfa Romeo which corresponded to a description on a list of suspected vehicles circulated by the Geneva police. A watch was kept on the car.

At about noon a white Opel with foreign plates—also on the Geneva list, the police say—arrived. Its occupants were apprehended as they opened the other car. According to the police, they had "suspicious items" on them but no money.

## First Seveso families return home

Seveso, Oct 16.—Twenty-four families enjoyed their first Sunday at home in 14 months today after being evacuated because of contamination by poisonous dioxin from a chemical factory last year.

They are the first of 730 families allowed to return to their homes by the Italian authorities. But many people still live in fear of the possible long-term effects of the explosion at the Swiss-owned Icmesa factory in July last year.

Other families will follow later this week after their homes have been thoroughly cleaned and plants, trees and earth removed from their gardens.—Reuter.

## Simplon rail line cut by floods

Milan, Oct 16.—The Simplon railway line will remain closed for several months because of damage caused by floods, railway officials said yesterday.

They said that the floods, had swept away a bridge over the Toce river, and it would take months to rebuild. Two-thirds of the trains have been cancelled and the others rerouted.—Reuter.

## Gas blowout fire on oil rig dies out

Copenhagen, Oct 16.—A gas blowout fire on a Danish oil boring rig in the North Sea died out during the weekend, and a crew was preparing to board the rig. The fire apparently stopped because the gas pocket which fed it was drained out.

## Battle to find cure for the sick sea

Rome, Oct 16.—Legal and technical experts from most of the 18 countries washed—if the word is correct by the Mediterranean meet in Venice tomorrow try to draft a treaty against pollution.

They have chosen as the seat of their conference the city which is the symbol of polluted beauty but their interests will be more general. The treaty they hope to draft is to control for the whole Mediterranean sea the discharge of industrial waste, municipal sewage and agricultural chemicals. The meeting, convened by the United Nations Environment Programme, is expected to last five days.

About 100 million people live in the coastal zones of the 18 Mediterranean countries. Their number is expected to be doubled by the year 2000. Another 100 million people

## Portugal's parties are given an ultimatum

From Jose Shercliff  
Lisbon, Oct 16

President Eanes gave the Portuguese political parties an ultimatum this weekend. Pulling no punches, he told them that they must, within the shortest possible time, find a platform of understanding between themselves to lead the country out of its economic and social crisis.

In his 28-minute speech to the country, delivered from the tribune of the Assembly of the Republic on the opening of its new session, he said: "I neither wish to take the place of the parties nor should I have to."

Political agreement, a social contract and the mobilisation of every citizen, the three aims to achieve. Everything else depended on them.

Expectations that the President would announce some radical change in the Government proved to be unfounded. It was obvious from his words that Dr Mario Soares, the Socialist Prime Minister, still has his support.

President Eanes stated that his own mission was twofold: to ensure the working of state organs and to strengthen the unity and independence of the Portuguese nation.

With regard to the first, he had done his best to keep track of Parliament's activities and justice and to "rehabilitate the historical dignity of the armed forces and adjust them to their new mission." He had also done his best to strengthen foreign relations.

A survey of the 39 largest cities and towns in France has shown that the cleanest and best run ones are those which take steps to keep down the number of cars.

Top prize in the survey, organized by the weekly magazine *Le Point*, has gone to the town of Dijon: the wooden spoon has been given to a vehemently protesting Marseilles.

Photographs in the magazine underline the difference between the two cities. In Dijon, shoppers stroll around car-free cobbled streets; in Marseilles, pedestrians have to squeeze past cars parked on the pavements.

The difference between the two cities is not simply one of population, although Dijon with just 150,000 ought to have a head start over Marseilles with a population of a million. What seems to be the essential difference is the attitude of the two mayors.

M. Robert Poujade, Dijon's mayor, is a Gaullist with a strong ecological interest, including a spell in government as Minister of the Environment. M. Georges Defferre, Marseilles's mayor, is a Socialist who has guided the city's growth since 1953, when there were just 600,000 people and 60,000 cars, to its present population with 400,000 vehicles.

It is perhaps surprising that come as tourists each year to what is still the world's biggest centre for pleasure and relaxation. The sea remains an important source of high quality sea food. If, according to United Nations experts, there is no convincing scientific evidence for the frequently expressed view that the Mediterranean is dead or dying, no doubt is felt that the sea is sick. This sickness could become incurable.

Some 90 per cent of the sewage from about 120 coastal cities flows or is dumped into the sea untreated or inadequately treated.

In addition to municipal sewage, poisonous effluents from factories (primarily heavy metals) and from oil refineries are pumped or dumped into the Mediterranean.

Oil tankers, passenger liners, cargo ships and naval vessels release hundreds of tons of waste, including oil waste, into the sea every day.

A control and progressive replacement of products, installations and industrial and other processes contributing significantly to water pollution.

On another occasion the same figure appeared at the cabin door to lift in boxes of supplies. As he did so, he never let go of the gun in his right hand.

Christopher Walker writes from Dhofar, Sultanate of Oman: "I was flying on a tour of military outposts. Identifying himself as Captain Mahmud, one of the hijackers was apparently trying to make concessions to me. At one point a gunman dressed in a uniform with gold braid on the shoulders and an officer's hat like that worn by airline pilots, leant from his window and brandished two large guns and waving them at the soldier-mechanic beneath."

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He told the political parties that political insecurity must be overcome, the economic crisis solved and the "inadequate social situation" remedied. The parties existed to find solutions for the problems of the people and of the nation.

The President insisted that "the country needs serene and responsible government, and this is all the more urgent as the situation of political and economic insecurity becomes more dangerous." He considered it essential that "the political parties present and consolidate within the shortest possible time some method of political understanding and agreement" which would overcome the crisis.

President Eanes called upon all sectors to put their shoulder to the wheel. Intellectuals, workers, technicians, trade unions and employers must all work together.

The Christian Democrat leader, Senhor Freitas do Amaral, praised the President's speech as very enlightening. His party had shown willingness to find a basis of understanding, he said, but the ruling Socialists were unwilling.

Senhor Antonio Reis, a leader of the Socialist Party, regarded the speech as an appeal to the other parties to come to an understanding with the Government. Senator Carlos Brito, the Communist Party's first leader, considered it a "profound diagnosis of the situation."

although the environmentalist movement, which is politically left-oriented, is so strong in France, the mayor in each of the top four towns—Dijon, Caen, Metz and Bordeaux—belongs to the governing majority.

Northern towns generally seem to be better cared for than those in the south. Moreover, Le Havre has 14 square metres (149 square ft) of open space per inhabitant compared to just over 21 square metres in Marseilles.

Limoges has the purest water, while that of Grenoble, Mulhouse, Nice, Toulon and Marseilles is the most polluted.

Upset by his city's low ranking, M. Defferre has protested that he has only just persuaded the authorities in Paris to let him build a water treatment plant instead of just pumping sewage into the Mediterranean.

The problems posed by cars should ease after November 14, when the city's underground railway is due to open.

Meanwhile, M. Jean Francois Seglio, the present director for the prevention of pollution at the Ministry of the Environment, has announced that three times as many rivers in France are becoming cleaner than are becoming dirtier. The target was to clean up all the rivers over the next 15 years.

A five-year plan to clean up the Rhône, one of the dirtiest rivers in France, was agreed over the weekend.

If the drafting in Venice is a success, the treaty will be put for signature to governments early in the new year in Monaco. In the proposals, governments of Mediterranean countries would be called on "progressively to elaborate and adopt, in cooperation with the competent international organizations, common guidelines, criteria or standards" for dealing with the following:

The length, depth and position of pipelines for coastal outfalls. Special requirements for separate treatment of hazardous types or sewage, such as that from hospitals, and industrial waste.

Quality of waters used for specific purposes and necessary for the protection of human health.

A control and progressive replacement of products, installations and industrial and other processes contributing significantly to water pollution.

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## OVERSEAS

## Hijacker's threat to kill all 87 hostages

Continued from page 1

"We asked him for something that did not exist on the aircraft. He told us there were four and I said 'Yes, of course four' (the number of hijackers). He let us know their type of guns. One of their guns was like a nine millimetre and there was a Colt and some plastic explosive."

From the start of the hijack, the West German negotiators and Emirates Government officials knew they were dealing with a very unstable man. Transcripts from the cockpit of the Lufthansa jet—transcripts which have not been officially released by the Emirates authorities—show that Captain Mahmud repeatedly threatened to kill all his hostages.

This morning, for instance, he shouted over the radio to the Dubai control tower: "I am going to kill them all." When the voice in the tower asked him to restrain himself, he launched into a long tirade against "imperialism and capitalism."

Unlike the pattern of most hijacks, the guerrillas on board the jet at Dubai refused to make any concessions to the negotiators. When they demanded fuel for the jet, the West Germans asked the hijackers to release the women and children and the sick passengers in return. The hijackers had secured at least the release of the sick but Captain Mahmud's response—about 8.40 this morning—was to tell the Germans that he would kill three people in the cockpit in return for the release of the sick.

Throughout this exchange, Army officers and foreign journalists were able to watch the cockpit in close-up through the military television screen. Captain Mahmud was sitting in the pilot's seat, looking straight forward for most of the time but occasionally glancing to his left. After 9.30, when the jet had been refuelled, the same man could be seen, his right hand to his mouth repeatedly as if smoking a cigarette.

Several times during the morning, soldiers dressed as mechanics supplied food, drugs and other supplies to the hijackers. At each occasion the hijackers appeared to talk to them. At one point a gunman dressed in a uniform with gold braid on the shoulders and an officer's hat like that worn by airline pilots, leant from his window and brandished two large guns and waving them at the soldier-mechanic beneath.

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Christopher Walker writes from Dhofar, Sultanate of Oman: "I was flying on a tour of military outposts. Identifying himself as Captain Mahmud, one of the hijackers was apparently trying to make concessions to me. At one point a gunman dressed in a uniform with gold braid on the shoulders and an officer's hat like that worn by airline pilots, leant from his window and brandished two large guns and waving them at the soldier-mechanic beneath."

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First snow: A Moscow family walking past the Borodino Battle museum in the season's first heavy fall over the weekend.

## US senators likely to take kinder view of Panama treaties

From Patrick Bragan  
Washington, Oct 16

The chances that the Senate will ratify the new treaties on the Panama Canal were greatly improved by the visit on Friday of General Omar Torrijos, the Panamanian leader, to the Panamanian leader, Senator Robert Byrd, the Democratic leader in the Senate and a skeptic on the desirability of the treaties, said yesterday that the joint American-Panamanian statement issued after the visit was "a very important diplomatic achievement."

"Without the statement, I am sure the treaty would not have been ratified. With the statement, I think the chances have been improved," he declined, however, to say whether he had decided how to vote himself.

In the statement, the Panamanian leader confirmed that the United States had the right "to act against any aggression or threat directly against the territorial integrity or political independence of Panama."

These are the two points that have been most in dispute during the slow process of ratification of the treaties. Many senators have used some apparent ambiguities in the treaties and conflicting interpretations of their clauses here and in Panama to justify their opposition.

The Panamanians had denied that the treaties gave the Americans the right to intervene in Panama. Friday's statement, however, said that "any United States action will be directed at ensuring that the canal will remain open, secure and accessible and shall never be directed against the territorial integrity or political independence of Panama."

The United States has a long record of intervening in the domestic affairs of Caribbean and Central American states, and no South American government could agree to treaty which seemed to authorize such a practice. On the other hand, many Americans fear that by giving up direct control of the canal, the Americans are jeopardizing their own security and will allow the Russians, Cubans or Chinese to replace them.

Friday's statement by the most dedicated conservatives in the Senate, but it will help the wavering.

Mr. Mandling, however, believed that the statement would have to provide guarantees for individual rights and respect the position of minorities. Although one could not be absolutely sure that constitutional agreements would be honored, a real fear in the country was that the overwhelming majority of people of all races would see a constitution of kind respected.

Starting that African nationalists were going to get what have been pressing for some time, Mr. Mandling said an agreement might be reached. This is certainly a reflection of the Rhodesian Government's position.

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## Rand Daily Mail' again reprimanded

From Our Own Correspondent  
Johannesburg, Oct 16

South Africa's increasingly industrial press council today ruled that the *Rand Daily Mail*, the country's biggest-selling English-language daily, had contravened the country's press code by failing to give the public news in a balanced manner in a report concerning alleged torture of detainees by the police.

In its second adjudication involving the *Rand Daily Mail* within 10 days, the council upheld a complaint against the newspaper by Mr. Etienne Mda, a former Member of Parliament, and ruled that the newspaper had failed to "report the news accurately or objectively." The paper was ordered to publish the council's ruling.

The complaint involved a report about a publication by the Anti-Apartheid Christian Institute entitled *Torture in South Africa*. The publication was later banned by a committee of publications chaired by Mr. Malan.

Earlier this month, the paper was reprimanded by the press council for contravening the code by publishing a report about the death in detention of Mr. Seven Biko, the black consciousness leader. Mr. Kruger has subsequently reported that the paper had been found to have contravened the code by publishing a report about the death in detention of Mr. Seven Biko, the black consciousness leader.

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## Bing Crosby's body to be flown home today

By Our Foreign Staff

The body of Bing Crosby, who died of a heart attack on a Madrid golf course on Friday evening, will be flown from Madrid to Los Angeles today.

Mr. Crosby, the 68-year-old son of the star of 72 films, said on his arrival in the Spanish capital: "Bing Crosby was not only a great actor, he was also a very good father to all of his children."

Mr. Crosby's body was embalmed at the Forensic Medical Institute in Madrid in accordance with instructions from his family. He will be buried near Los Angeles tomorrow.

His widow, Mrs. Kathryn Crosby, has asked that no flowers should be sent from Britain; instead donations should be made to the Silver Jubilee Appeal Fund.

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## OVERSEAS

# Attempt to install Mrs Gandhi as party president dissolves into clash with Congress leaders

From Richard Wigg  
Delhi, Oct 16

An angry attack on the present Congress Party leaders was made by Mrs Gandhi here last night after her supporters failed to ram through their demand that she should take over as party president. Making a dramatic near-midnight appearance at the meeting of the All-India Congress Committee, whose proceedings she had followed from a distance most of the day, Mrs Gandhi stormed in to accuse some of the Congress leaders of negotiating with the Janata Government over her "punishment" for the emergency.

In what appeared a thinly veiled threat, the former Prime Minister said that although she had not kept files on her former colleagues she "had plenty" if she chose to speak. Her intervention wound up a day which revealed an unexpectedly tough resistance from figures like Mr Brahmananda Reddy, the party's president, to the brush-painting tactics of the Gandhi group. Although they obtained the 120 signatures needed to call a special meeting of the Congress committee intended to remove Mr Reddy, it became clear they would be

short of a majority at this meeting. There were pro-Mrs Gandhi demonstrations by delegates during the proceedings. Mr C. Subramaniam, her former Finance Minister who recently gave evidence against her before a commission of inquiry under Mr Justice Shah, was shouted down throughout his speech opposing change in the party presidency. The head-on confrontation swept aside earlier efforts at a compromise under which Mrs Gandhi would have had a greater say in party affairs. Although her supporters claimed afterwards they had made only a tactical withdrawal and the campaign to remove Mr Reddy would continue, Mrs Gandhi had badly miscalculated.

Her chief error was evidently that of permitting the "draft Indira Gandhi" campaign to be master-minded from her home by several of the figures most closely associated with her during the emergency, including Mr Sanjay Gandhi, her younger son who was supposed to have retired from politics. Such tactics backfired because the present leaders, including those chief ministers from Congress-held states who

go to the polls next spring, resist bowing to the caucus around Mrs Gandhi. This was for them personally, the worst aspect of the emergency and the element, they believe, which did the party most damage with the electorate. Mr Reddy ignored a direct appeal to step down from one of Mrs Gandhi's chief supporters who argued that giving her the party presidency would further galvanize the party if the Janata Government re-elected her. The acrimonious divisions disclosed this weekend in the Congress Party will be a relief for a Government trying to recover from its ill-prepared arrest of the former Prime Minister.

Mr A. B. Vajpayee, the External Affairs Minister said here yesterday that India is anxious to normalize its relations with China, notwithstanding the border question which will have to be resolved. He was talking to journalists after his return from the United Nations General Assembly, where he was informed of Peking's indirect approach for improved relations made through the United States and Yugoslavia.

## Canadian unity issue confronts the Queen

From Michael Leapman  
Ottawa, Oct 16

The Queen today was addressing herself to Canada's most painful issue, that of its national unity, on the second full day of her silver jubilee visit to Ottawa. After a Saturday devoted to public appearances, executed with customary competence, she was lunching with the Premiers of Canada's 10 provinces today and giving a televised address tonight.

The lunch was held at the country house of Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, and among the guests was Mr René Lévesque, Premier of Quebec, whose Parti Québécois advocates the province's separation from Canada. In an interview yesterday Mr Lévesque said that he was attending the lunch only because it would have been a glaring discourtesy "to be the only provincial Premier to decline the invitation."

"I do not think there is much decisive action to be taken by Buckingham Palace or the Queen about what gives in Canada or Quebec," he said ironically. He added that he had no plans to raise the matter but would talk about it if it came up. The monarchy was "totally immaterial" to Quebec, he maintained, though he would not commit himself to taking Quebec out of the Commonwealth if it was to become an independent nation. However, he did express the hope that the Queen would not use her speech tonight, or the opening of Parliament speech on Tuesday, to appeal for national unity. The speeches will be approved by the Canadian Government, and Mr Lévesque hopes that the monarch will not be used as a tool.



The Queen with Buffy Sainte-Marie, the Red Indian singer, after a concert in Ottawa.

The separatist issue is in a limbo until a referendum is organized in Quebec to test the opinion of the inhabitants. Some believe that Canada's present severe economic difficulties will discourage the province from going it alone. The separatists do not subscribe to this view, though it is notable that, nearly a year after coming to power, Mr Lévesque has yet to set a date for the referendum. The royal couple's engagement's yesterday were designed to let the people see as much of them as possible. At the start of the day, under a grey and cold sky, the citizens seemed reluctant to take advantage of the opportunity. Only a few hundred were on hand for the Queen's first engagement at the City Hall.

But as the weather brightened they turned out in larger numbers. There was a good crowd for a wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial and, at an afternoon regatta, crowds rushed on to the grass in front of her viewing stand, preventing her from getting more than a fleeting glimpse of the boats. Later she attended a football match of the North American variety which she had difficulty understanding. In the evening she was warmly received at a gala concert of light and pop music. The highlight was a ferocious protest song by Buffy Sainte-Marie about the Government's treatment of Red Indians.

Today a light drizzle reduced the attendance at the royal evening. Worshippers at an open-air service produced a colourful array of umbrellas, and the rain discouraged people from turning out to wave at the royal train as it made its way to Wakefield, a town just outside Ottawa which the Queen visited on her way to the lunch.

## Arms limit agreement nearer Pravda says

Moscow, Oct 16.—Pravda said today that Moscow and Washington were moving towards a new strategic arms limitation accord and could resolve their remaining differences by sticking to the principle of fairness. In its authoritative weekly review, Pravda echoed remarks by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, that there had been "a narrowing of positions" on a number of key questions preventing agreement.

As a result of Mr Gromyko's talks last month with President Carter and Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, the Communist Party newspaper said it was "possible to say that the two powers have embarked on the road leading to agreement". The first strategic arms limitation accord expired on October 3, but talks on a second stage agreement had been stalled for months, mainly over the question of how to deal with new large Soviet missiles and the small but deadly American cruise missile.

"The negotiations are continuing. Not all the problems are solved. But there is no doubt they can be solved if the (negotiators) are guided by the interests of peace and the principle of equal security for each side." However, Pravda reiterated fears expressed in the Soviet press that the United States were opposing conclusion of a new agreement. It said the hawkish of the American "military-industrial complex" were trying to "crank up" the arms race and close a meeting in Italy last week of the Nato

nuclear planning group which discussed deployment of the neutron bomb. The newspaper also mentioned news that Mr Harold Brown, the American Defence Secretary, had approved funds for development of a new mobile missile system.

But Pravda referred with approval to Mr Carter's speech to the United Nations on October 3 and quoted the President's recent remark at a press conference that there had been "significant progress" in the talks. In Washington, the American trade union leader, Mr George Meany, challenged the Soviet Government yesterday to allow six prominent dissidents to visit his organization's forthcoming convention in Los Angeles. Mr Meany, President of the AFL-CIO group of unions, announced the invitations while the 1975 Helsinki agreement, calling for freer movement of people and ideas across international boundaries, came under review by an international conference in Belgrade. The invitations also were intended as a signal to President Carter, who only two months ago lowered barriers against visits to the United States by communist trade union officials. The President's decision went against long-standing AFL-CIO policy.

Mr Meany said many Americans concerned with the cause of human rights would conclude that the change in American visa policies was "grossly erroneous" if the Russians refused to allow the dissidents to travel abroad.—Reuter and AP.

## Forgotten empire surprises envoy

From Our Own Correspondent  
Delhi, Oct 14

Though he fought in India's freedom struggle against the British, the nostalgia so fashionable in Britain nowadays for the Raj at its zenith does not grate on Mr Narayan Ganesh Goray, the man chosen by the Government of Mr Morarji Desai to be India's new High Commissioner in London. "I really am more surprised that the British have forgotten their empire so quickly; I had thought those memories would linger on, creating chauvinism or something like that," he said in an interview before leaving for London next week. "I find the British have reacted very willingly now the tide of history has turned, just as we have in India. And here, I owe a credit to Mahatma Gandhi's leadership. He always told us: 'Don't hate the British people, though you can hate imperialism as much as you like.' That was a very healthy outlook and now there is no hatred."



Mr Goray: rewarded with post in London.

up his post when relations between Britain and India are changing and the familiar images of the past fading rapidly. It was almost inevitable he thought that after joining the EEC many Britons should feel drawn more towards Europe than India. Similarly one of the results of sovereign power

in India was growing contacts with India's neighbours something the Janata Government has strongly emphasised. At 70, Mr Goray is a new-comer to diplomacy. What London is getting is a veteran Indian politician who knows the make-up of the new Janata Government like few others. During Mrs Gandhi's emergency he helped quietly to lay its foundations, travelling the country, seeing those underground and those in and out of jail and persuading the competing elements that uniting was the only way to defeat Mrs Gandhi at the polls. London, it seems, is his reward. Mr Goray, a socialist and former trade union leader, said he was surprised by the reactions of the British press to Mrs Gandhi's arrest. Much earlier there had been a great demand for her arrest, he maintained, but the Desai Government had waited until they felt there was sufficient evidence so as not to appear vindictive. "This bungling on the part of police officers was accidental," he commented. "It does not mean that the Janata Government is weak."

## Bhutto supporters arrested

Islamabad, Oct 16.—The police arrested 22 people today for trying to start a march in Lahore to demand the release from detention of Mr Bhutto, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan. This brings to 50 the number of supporters of Mr Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party arrested in the city during the past five days. Those arrested today were carrying placards demanding Mr Bhutto's release and criticizing the military Government. The People's Party has issued no public directive calling for

agitation to secure Mr Bhutto's release. Mr Bhutto faces a number of criminal and financial charges in civilian courts. He is already on trial on charges that he ordered the murder of an opposition politician in 1974.—AP.

## Prisoners of conscience



Uruguay: Julio Castro

## Jail escape of woman in death case

Raleigh, North Carolina, Oct 16.—Joan Little, whose trial on charges of killing a prison officer ended in acquittal in 1975, escaped from prison over the weekend, the North Carolina Correction Centre for women said. At her trial she said that the prison officer had attempted to rape her and that she stabbed him with an ice-pick in self defence. After her acquittal, Miss Little was returned to prison to serve a sentence for breaking and entering, the offence for which she was in jail at the time of the incident involving the prison officer. She was granted the privilege of an outside job several months ago, but her work privilege was suspended last week. The prison said she had reported late to the dental office where she was working.—AP.

## Hongkong Club likely to be demolished

From Our Correspondent  
Hong Kong, Oct 16  
Hong Kong has been shocked by today's report that the historic Hongkong Club will probably be demolished because its 130-year-old wooden foundation piles are being dangerously weakened by the construction of the underground railway. The neighbouring Supreme Court building may also be doomed for the same reason. Under provisional plans, the club will be transferred to four top floors of the new Central Post Office building with a special lift for exclusive use by club members.

## Uruguay: Julio Castro

By David Watts  
Señor Julio Castro is a well-known Uruguayan educational expert who has served Unesco in its adult literacy programmes in Ecuador and, notably, in Cretal, Mexico.

He was also on the editorial board of the respected independent Uruguayan weekly magazine *Marcha*, which circulated throughout Latin America before its closure in the wake of the military takeover in Uruguay in 1973.

Señor Castro, author of a number of books on Latin America, became a familiar figure at Unesco seminars and meetings on literacy from the beginning of his association with the organization in 1952.

On August 1 this year Señor Castro, aged 68, left his Montevideo home by car. Since then nothing has been seen of him or his car. The authorities deny that he is under arrest.

After his wife reported him missing police published an advertisement in a number of newspapers appealing for information about his whereabouts. This has been used in the past as a device to indicate that the Uruguayan authorities wish their hands of the affair.

However, a later government statement said that Señor Castro had boarded a flight of the state airline, Pluma, for Buenos Aires on September 22. Some observers find it hard to believe that such a prominent Uruguayan citizen, for whom there was a national alert, would be able to leave the country unnoticed. It is understood that Señor Castro never held membership of any political party, though he did play a role in the Frente Amplio, a loose coalition of organizations which fought the 1971 elections. A spokesman for the Uruguayan Embassy in London said that it had no further information on the case.

## Vietnam tightens control on escape attempts

From Our Correspondent  
Hong Kong, Oct 16  
The Vietnamese Government is tightening its surveillance on attempted escapes from the country and imposing heavy penalties on those arrested, according to refugees who are still managing to reach Hong Kong. Members of a recently arrived group of 17 men, eight women and 18 children said that under the new control measures only about one out of every 10 escapees manages to run the strengthened gauntlet of shore and sea patrols. Those caught are sentenced to long terms of hard labour—often more than 10 years—in rural imprisonment areas and their family property is confiscated. The latest group to reach

Hong Kong had been compelled to postpone their planned escape from a fishing village in Binh Tuy province on four occasions before they finally evaded surveillance and made a night get-away on a 62ft fishing junk directed to Singapore. After having been refused help by a Japanese and a Thai ship, they were at last picked up by a German container ship which landed them in Hong Kong 10 days after their escape. They would have been denied entry to Singapore but as usual they have been granted permission to remain in Hong Kong for three months while the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees seeks new homes abroad for them. Most hope to go to the United States.

## Come Poppy Day, remember to help someone forget the war.

The scars of war don't always heal quickly. Not if you're badly disabled, unemployed or living alone on a small pension.

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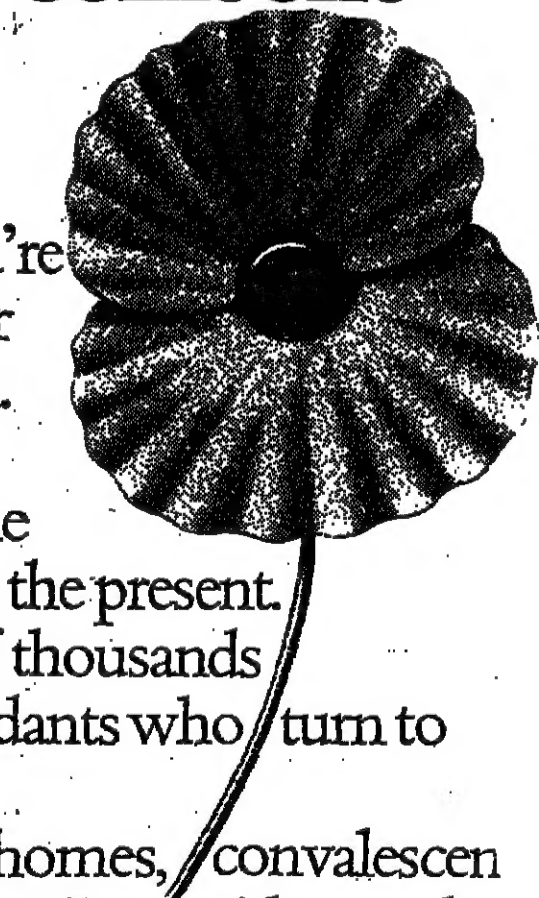
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Yes, I would like to do my bit between 7th and 13th November. I am over 16 years of age. Please put me in touch with my local organiser.

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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## THE ARTS

## Ninette de Valois restores a classical pleasure

The Sleeping Beauty  
Covent Garden

John Percival

The most important thing to say about Ninette de Valois's new production of *The Sleeping Beauty* is that she makes it possible again to watch with pleasure a work that was for 20 years the Royal Ballet's finest classical work, a decade in which it was obscured by two misbegotten productions, one imaginative but wrong-headed, the other simply messy. In general approach she has followed the formula that worked so well before, even to the extent of commissioning designs that are pastiche, not an original interpretation.

David Walker's Messel-and-water settings and costumes have not the splendour or distinction of their model, but they are conventionally pretty and their insipidity is itself a kind of merit because they rarely attract attention. A pity that the fairies all look so much alike, and that neither Aurora nor Florimund stand out from the crowd. I miss Carabosse's rags; goat-headed devils seem a curious replacement for them.

The most important single change from the 1946 version is the inclusion of Frederick Ashton's lyrical awakening duet created for the 1968 edition. That will certainly be popular.

but seems to me a betrayal of Poppa's original grand design. The classical dances of the vision scene and the wedding pas de deux should tell us everything about the love of the sleeping beauty and her prince, without needing the stylistically clashing romantic appendage.

By including it Dame Ninette makes a complete beach of the story as a whole point; not that she seems much concerned with narrative anyway, since the king and queen are not at all in 116 years. More important, she presents the final big duet just as a showpiece with no revelation of its dramatic content, then exacerbates the damage by again shearing off its code for those boorishly irrelevant Ivans. Do we really want them as well as MacMillan's Hop-o-my-thumb solo from the 1973 staging?

Those are faults that can be put right now that the main work of restoration has been done. Similarly, simply to have this ballet back in the repertoire with its many demanding roles both small and large should help put the piece back in the style, notable for instance in the Rose adagio where the balancing tricks are never allowed to override the music.

The star of the opening performance was Anthony Dowell, greeted with a warm ovation after his long illness. He makes an elegant, courteous prince and dances with glowing smoothness. I am conscious of being in a minority in thinking, nevertheless, that he and the

role do each other slightly less than full justice. There is something bland about his playing; somehow I can envisage his making more effect as the most frightening Carabosse imaginable.

This role, however, has been given to a woman and no less a one than Lynn Seymour. At her first attempt it looked disconcertingly like a parody of the producer, but doubtless Seymour's keen sense of drama will soon put more spirit and more anger into it.

Lesley Collier's Aurora has gained a lot from study with de Valois and Ashton. Perhaps it is still too much in one mood of gentle smiling warmth, and she needs to make even more care to make the line of her legs look as long as possible. But the fluent expanse of her dancing after one or two early hesitations was attractive.

Among the smaller parts, Alfreda Thorogood's dancing as the Woodland Glades fairy and as the Bluebird's enchanted princess was a particular pleasure. Georgina Parkinson gave a nice sense of character to the courtiers in the hunting scene, maintaining her politeness when dismissed by the prince. The corps de ballet deserves credit, too, for its well sustained standard throughout.

First night jinxes presumably accounted for two lapses in the lighting. The lighting of the Abbey with its short in funny and pointed examination of Matthew Taibot, a self-willed martyr now being promoted for beatification and canonization as a saint for this century.



Lesley Collier

Photograph by Anthony Gormley

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from Saturday's later editions.

String Things  
Purcell Room

Max Harrison

Not for years have I seen a stage so crowded with electronic equipment as that of the Purcell Room on Saturday night. The spectacle took me back, indeed, to the avant-garde concerts of the 1960s. Perhaps there is now an avant-garde revivalist movement afoot; certainly the music, rather than the sound, was different from the old days.

On this occasion a group called String Things, consisting of Phil Wachsmann, electric violin, Marcio Marcos, electric guitar, and Trevor Taylor, percussion, was responsible. They began with Toru Takemitsu's *Seasons*, which consisted of a variety of percussive noises, some quite pretty, that unfolded without any evident plan, that had no significant pattern. The rest of the programme was rather like that, whether pre-recorded on tape or performed "live".

An untitled guitar solo by Mr. Marcos was typical in this respect. It was played for a while, quite striking in terms of exploiting unfamiliar instrumental effects, yet these had no particular relation to one another, and it all went on too long. *Solo* by Mr. Marcos was another rapidly changing piece, drawing sounds from his instrument very different from those normally associated with it but making some use of electronically sustained notes. This was joined to another of Mr. Marcos's works, *String Mix*, for which violin and guitar. The added, which offered a deal more of rapid-fire note-spinning, squeaking and gibbering to apparent random effect. Mr. Wachsmann's *Three Draft Pianos* was more of the same.

## Chameleon of the stage

Ned's Girl  
By Bryan Forbes

(Edith Evans)

A Personal Memoir

By Jean Batters

(Hart-Davis, MacGibbon, £1.50) "I did what seemed right to me, and that's the only excuse for my acting," the speaker was Dame Edith Evans. Bryan Forbes, her expert biographer, has written a book that is one of his epigrams: "I don't think there's anything extraordinary about me except this passion for the truth."

That was an understatement. Edith Mary Evans was an extraordinary woman. A very private person, she was a theatre on stage; she was an inspired chameleon; so various that many people think of her now in a single part and stick to it. The long-memory may choose one of her "lovelies", Millamant, when she set the Restoration to her own music, a bridal dance; others, maybe, the vestal virgin Lady Bracknell (Dame Edith came to depict her), an avalanche in town and country; and last, come, no doubt, the Dowager Queen in Mr. Forbes's film, *The Slipper and the Rose*.

But there were scores of Evanses. All in her dressing-room, returned to this one woman, by no means easy to know, obstinate sometimes, "a sort of loner", she said, "who could give freely only in a world where she could be, as the final end of the voice, the ultimate gesture, a complete new creation. Her authors had to realize that she would not play people 'who are only half-finished' (hence her insistence on refusal to let Lady Macbeth).

She had an immense audience; yet few would see her as herself, her strangest, most oddly affecting character, both simple and complex, often misunderstood. Mr. Forbes has expressed it now with an intuition that she would have admired.

From her childhood in Pimlico—her father, the "Ned" of her preferred title, was a minor civil servant—words possessed her. No wonder that William Poel, who met her first, in the early 1900s, as an amateur Beatrice (even then Edith Evans was a girl transformed) chose this young mil-

liner to be his Cressida. Through life she revered the language. Twenty different voices sound today, from the slow "cloggy" utterance of Juliet's Nurse and the swooping rapture of Rosalind in a Watteau pastoral, to the Restoration light in the air, the breathless, yes, but surrounded by "spangled spooks" in the first act of *Daphne Laureola*, or Christopher Fry's Countess skipping into silence: "I wish I could go on singing."

Edith Evans continues to sing in the mind. Where so much playing, fondly-praised, but lost original. The memory of the remembrance of Dame Edith's vocal line restores to me any character she acted. Millamant to Voluptua and all that lies between. A lonely woman, yes, but surrounded by the people she created, more real to her at the time than the world of everyday.

Her story can be quietly moving, especially her long friendship with George (Guy) Booth whom she had known since she was 15 and he was five years older. They were married in 1925; though they spent most of the ensuing decade apart (he was an oil painter in Venezuela) it was a happy marriage. After his death it lived (Mr. Forbes says wisely) as "a remembered sadness of days lost between two people who were constantly searching for each other, but in different ways."

Later, Dame Edith had a tenderly fledgling romance (tended during the Old Vic As You Like It of 1936) with her young Orlando, now Sir Michael Redgrave.

Mr. Forbes writes with a trust and affection. Dame Edith would have acknowledged. Further, his book is fortified by its letters from Shaw, George Moore, and all. Those from another great woman, the dramatic Edith Sagal, who had not the calmest of times with her leading actress—have a particularly exhilarating urgency.

Miss Batters's memoir is a personal domestic footnote by one of Edith's former secretaries. Historians recognize this, any careful judgment, such unpretentious recollections as these are not to be discarded.

J. C. Trewin

## Dublin Festival finds a winner

From the confines of a harshly cut budget the Dublin Theatre Festival has salvaged at least one play, *The Liberty Suit*, by a young playwright, Peter Sheridan. Of plays yet to come when I left Dublin, Thomas Kilroy's *Talbot's Box* appeared set to bring back controversy to the Abbey with its short in funny and pointed examination of Matthew Taibot, a self-willed martyr now being promoted for beatification and canonization as a saint for this century.

If Mr. Kilroy's somewhat over-written script plays as well as it reads it should keep the Abbey's small Peacock Theatre filled for the length of its contentions run. In two acts he manages to consider the justifications for the Abbey's canonization, the effect of his self-martyrdom on other people and the political currents of the time.

Mr. Sheridan's play, which was provisionally given the two festival weeks at the Olympia Theatre, might have been allotted its run by financial necessity, but its increasing popularity in Dublin more than justifies the decision. Necessity might have prompted the risk, but it also took imagination to see that a team from the Project Arts Centre, used to its own 120-seat theatre, could fill the splendid, and vast, Olympia—also known, among other names, as the Empire—which but for its collapse in 1971, would have been a theatre of the 1860-67 but if there is less evi-

dence here of the later austere style than the young attempt to combine the rituals of the church and the theatre it is surely owing to the ceremonial occasion for which this mass was composed, the coronation of King Bungle.

There is a thin line between comedy and violence in the play, and Mr. Flynn treads it with good control. Twice the play comes to scenes of chaos, in a riot that rises from a religious lesson, and when an entertainer provides the prisoners with an unauthorized striptease dancer for their Christmas show. Mr. Flynn helps build those scenes with skill and also provides original songs which are part of his character's development.

There is one political prisoner, an evangelizing IRA man played by Gerard Mo-

re, and two very firm characterizations in what might have been unsympathetic roles. Noel O'Donovan gives the nearly caustic traveller an unforgettable presence and Paul Bennett plays a retarded prisoner with beguiling simplicity.

There are several minor faults, but the total effect of the play signals several rising Irish talents. If the warden goes to the trouble of informing Curley that his term of two years is unusually long, it puts an unnecessary symbolic weight on the other prisoners who remain throughout his imprisonment, and whose experiences are also well detailed. Jim Sheridan establishes the comedy sequences so effectively that the abrupt shifts to increase drama conclude to provoke laughter when they should not. And, of all things, the violence is too hesitant. The punches are too obviously pulled.

With the Project firmly ensconced as part of the festival proper, there is not much of a fringe. The one brief fringe performance which I saw part of was the Dublin University Players' *The Mind of De Selby*. Very well adapted from Flann O'Brien's *The Third Policeman* and the correspondence columns of *The Irish Times*, and even more brightly directed, by Robert Nicholson, it explains such things as the significance of the number 88 and explained fully to my satisfaction why the world is sausage-shaped. Marcel Gwizdz, who portrays De Selby, has marvellous theatrical qualities.

There is one political prisoner, an evangelizing IRA man played by Gerard Mo-

Ned Chaillet

Liszt Festival  
St Margaret's,  
Westminster

Barry Millington

"Mephistopheles disguised as an abbe" is how a contemporary described Liszt, and apt as that might be for the earlier sacred works of the magician and erstwhile "diabolical" virtuoso, it is not so pertinent in the context of the religious works of the 1860s when Liszt gained a more direct inspiration from Rome (in both its physical and spiritual senses).

The Hungarian Coronation Mass, given in St Margaret's, Westminster, on Friday under Richard Hickox, dates from 1866-67 but if there is less evi-

dence here of the later austere style than the young attempt to combine the rituals of the church and the theatre it is surely owing to the ceremonial occasion for which this mass was composed, the coronation of King Bungle.

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For further details and an application form to be returned by 11 November 1977 write to: Civil Service Commission, Alconon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1PB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote G/9634.

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The Council and Senate of the University of Hull invite applications for the post of Vice-Chancellor. The successful candidate will be responsible for the management of the university, and for the supervision of the staff.

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# Which one costs industry the most?

## ALL OUT

Strikes?



Storage and materials handling?



Of course, it's a trick question, but the answer is nonetheless surprising.

### Some gloomy facts.

In 1976, strikes on British production lines cost less than £200 million in lost output.

Industrial fires cost less than £200 million in material damage.

Inefficient storage and materials handling cost more than £2,000 million.

We hope that you have escaped the first two of these problems.

It is almost certain, however, that you haven't escaped the third. For, a survey by the Department of Industry showed every company was paying more than it should for its storage and materials handling.

### Some cheerful facts.

Dexion's one job in life is to deal with this problem. We can look at your storage and materials handling system and tell you if it needs improving.

If it does, we can re-design it, whether your company is a multi-national or a family firm.

This is not, as you might suppose, just a way of selling our own products.

Although we make and sell a wider range of storage equipment than any other company in the world, we won't recommend any of it if we find that it's not the best solution.

For the kind of results you can expect to achieve, let us quote two case studies from the Department of Industry:

#### 1. A machine shop.

Cube utilisation up from 12% to 32%. Number of movements down 45%. Stockholding reduced. Machine productivity increased. Investment recovered in two years.

#### 2. A finished goods store.

Cost of order selection labour down 75%. Cost of stores labour down 50%. Investment recovered in one year.

You can read 100 of our own case-histories in "The Book of 100 Answers."

Send for it now. And next year, you could have no more to cope with than fires and strikes.

## DEXION®

We'll help you make money out of thin air.









It would not be fair to attach too much importance to disputes from judicial review by a path trodden by Mr

Brunswick has forced  
the unions that sue  
does not always  
advantage, and al

Acas would welcome clarification of the law on ballots. If employers began regularly to resort to obstruction of this kind, there would indeed be a case for some form of compulsory ballot. But the issue that has raised the greatest trade union concern is the fact that the actual recommendations of Acas, even if they are enforceable, do not guarantee victory for the union in the ballot. The law allows an interminable process of civil litigation, in which the employer would never be compelled outright to accept. Mr Booth was no doubt right when he said that few employers were likely to take the thankless

But the acas embodies an opposite approach. It works through instances and through whatever credit it has been able to gain from both sides as a fair mediator. Unlike the Department of Employment, which used to do similar work, it has no axe of official policy to grind. Its work has great value. But a change of the kind Mr Booth referred to in his speech is clearly more drastically than a House of Lords judgment. A power to pursue a recalcitrant employer (or unionist) through the courts—perhaps enabling him to make a martyr of himself by choosing prison as the five London dockers did when they defied the Industrial Relations Court—would fundamentally affect Acas's nature and usefulness. A body with such powers might be in a place where the industrial disputes were legally regulated: it would be jarring and self-destructive in a system like ours.

The sudden dismissal of the number of speeches by mem- was General Joao Ba-

General Frota was well-known as the most prominent of the "hard-liners." It was he who was responsible for the recent large-scale arrests of students and for threats against the press on the grounds that it was being disrespectful towards the Army. But more relevant is the fact that he has clearly been making a bid to succeed General Geisel as President when the President's term of office runs out at the beginning of 1979. A choice has to be made next year of the official candidate, and a

What is still unclear is whether this will mean any significant loosening of the military grip on Brazilian life. General Geisel, after all, has always maintained that he wanted to liberalize the system, but he has often found himself compelled to remove the velvet glove under pressure from his military colleagues—or even, perhaps, from his own inclinations.

The most obvious beneficiary of the dismissal of General Frota

was General Joao Batista Figueiredo, the head of the intelligence services, who is also the candidate for presidential succession and is often regarded as General Geisel's man. General Figueiredo is less of a hard-liner than General Frota by all accounts, though hardly an outspoken liberal; his claim is to be acceptable both to the moderates and to the hard-liners. But he suffers from the fact that he is relatively low in the Army hierarchy, and that if he became President the more die-hard generals would see this as a step towards removing the Army as much from control of the country.

What is unusual is that in the course of the manoeuvring over the choice of the next President, still some way off, so much of the debate is being conducted in the open. General Frota's criticism of the Government, for not being anti-communist enough, was printed in the press, and so are criticisms from a more moderate, less extreme view. Public opinion may not count for a great deal with the Brazilian regime, but it does have its influence, and opposing views are being aired in an unusually open way.

The question for the future is whether Brazil is going to move farther in that direction, or if the military leaders will decide that things have gone too far, and try to clamp down again.

\_\_\_\_\_

Now the conferences of the three

First, a factor that every party manager in Smith Square immediately takes into account, although it is little considered in the public mind, is the fact that since the general election of 1955, the new electoral register has come into force throughout the United Kingdom on February 16 each year, and the Labour Party, with fewer than a fifth of the Conservatives' full-time agents and professionals, not to say a dwindling band of part-time constituents, has to canvass votes with every month the register ages. Labour simply does not possess the logistical resources to whip in the postal vote, or keep track of its shifting vote, no matter how able and zealous party professionals and agents are.

Note that Labour's choice of a general election date on a young register does not necessarily mean it will win the polls; it may do much to minimize territorial losses in marginal seats, so that even though Mrs Thatcher won a second term she would have been asking, she would be left with a minority in an increasingly multi-party House of Commons.

The book is also likely to tell us more about the state of the crystal ball since 1955, there have been seven general elections. Four have been in February, March, May and June, and three in November. No one stood up chance of winning the Anthony Eden election of May, 1955. Harold Wilson immensely increased 1966; lost very narrowly in June, 1970; and just won the "Who governs?" election, in February, 1974, when Mr Heath had choice of

the other side of the balance sheet, he must doubt whether one special case after another, and one million strike after another will not pay the 10 per cent limit on day increases, restart an inflationary spiral, and make government policy impossible. He is not considerably less unemployed figures that may go on rising towards two million. He is in the contradictory position of arguing that all goes well under Labour but that inflation is inevitable. He will be resisted and that the people must tighten their belts until the promised land is arrived at. If Mr Callaghan, in a Micawber spirit, tries to hold on till October 1978, in spring, 1979, he will be at hazard. He will be at hazard if the Minister will be at hazard from an opposition leader who grows in strength and political skill when he is reached the limit of growth. This is the cue for me to end on a personal note. I have said to my friends at the conference, as a Political Editor of *The Times*, and now turn attention to Europe. Be-

From Mr C. A. Comyns Curr  
Sir, Sir Martin Byle's letter

My second point is that the soaring rise in primary energy "demand" in the official forecasts arises in the main not from an increase in the end-use function that need to be performed (which can be reduced anyway), but from the fact that supply is assumed to increase in the form of electricity, which is all that a nuclear system can provide. This leads straight away to the loss of some three-quarters of the energy generation and transmission and the need for a massive investment in power stations and grid capacity.

From Mr Graeme Shankland

First by rejecting the claim by big formal institutions, public and private, that they can deliver everything and penetrate everywhere. Despite what most of them say, they have a natural limit, fixed by their size and character, to their capacity to produce, serve and give in satisfaction.

*From Mrs Mary Large*  
Sir, Last week I sat listening, along with four hundred other farmers, to Sir Henry Plumb, President of the National Farmers' Union, speaking about post transitional development of British agriculture in the Common Market.

in a healthy society these two sectors sustain each other and their relationship is symbiotic. The informal sector is active and dynamic, economically and politically but the informal sector is essential, not parasitic or residual. This dual economy has characterized urban society throughout history. In the future the informal sector will have a bigger role to play for we seem to be heading towards a society geared to a shorter working week, the reduction of "structural unemployment" and the development of intensive modes of production, and a greater call on personal and professional services. Resolving these forces needs rethinking many of our social, economic and political concepts. The time has come to harness the energies of small towns.

Meanwhile the domestic issue between the consumers and the farmers should be resolved: in the short-term the green pound keeps the price of food down but if it destroys our home agriculture entirely then the consumer will be at the mercy of other countries' surpluses or shortages. Food will not be so fresh and cheap as consumers

## Combating submarines

*From Mr Patrick Beesly*

*From Mr Patrick Beeshy*  
Sir, Last night's Panorama

As deputy head of the Admiralty Submarine Tracking Room in World War II I had first hand experience of the difficulties of pin-pointing the position of German U-boats and of the failure of almost all efforts to find the enemy except in the immediate vicinity of convoys. Statistics prove beyond doubt that, under the worst conditions, not only were ships lost, but also infinitely safer than the sailing independently, but that far more U-boats were sunk by the surface and air escorts.

Methods of tracking and detecting the submarines have, no doubt, improved out of recognition since then, but so also have the evasive powers of the submarines. The American Commander-in-Chief admitted that it was impossible to know where every Russian submarine was in peacetime. How then are they to be sought out and destroyed under the actual conditions of war?

Sir, I have recently returned from a holiday in Kenya where I had the good fortune to visit several of the national parks and game reserves. Although it is true that elephants undoubtedly suffered from the serious drought of recent years, they along with buffalo and plains game were to be seen in vast herds.

There is only one helicopter to cover Tsavo and Amboseli. Is it beyond the power of present day civilization to preserve a species of wildlife which has survived for thousands of years and is one of the last of a breed which have enthralled travellers and visitors to Africa for years? The only sad memory one carries away from a visit such as I enjoyed is the recollection of one lone rhino standing at a water hole.

are interested in the conservation of wildlife and in particular of species to the alarming and it

## Improving housing

*From the Director of Shelter*

Sir, You quote Reg Freeson, Minister of Housing, as saying that "recent statements by Shelter are factually incorrect as regards rehabili-

BARBARA M. GORDON,  
31 Hepburn Gardens,  
St Andrews,  
Fife,  
October 7.

**From the Director of Shelter**  
Sir, You quote Reg Freeson, Minister of Housing as saying that

We have quoted the figures in the *Public Expenditure White Paper* which show that between 1974-5 and 1977-8, spending on the improvement of council properties was reduced by 32 per cent, and spending on improvement grants by 57 per cent. We have suggested that there is now no net increase.

merits. All I would say is that it does seem to me that it ill becomes Sir David Napley (letters, October 12) to complain about the press publicity which it has aroused since this has been due entirely to what has appeared to the press to be an attempt by the leaders of the practising legal profession to prevent

[illegible]

mental committees are constantly pointing out, it is vital that they do so since, far too little research is undertaken by British industry, commerce and the professions. If the contemptuous attitude of the immediate Past President of The Law Society fairly represents that of the legal profession, the reason its record is particularly lamentable is all too apparent.

Yours faithfully,  
C. B. GOWER,  
The University,  
Southampton.  
October 13.

provocation

democratic right that peaceful demonstrations should be permitted. But they are not to be permitted anywhere. Anyone proposing to hold one in, say, the city of Buckingham Palace would not be permitted to do so, and the same should apply to rallies or marches in racially sensitive areas and the other hand, rallies and marches by however disliked bodies in less sensitive areas should be permitted, and even protected from disruption.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
WILLIAM HAYTER,  
Bassett's House,  
Stanton St John,  
Oxford.

It seems obvious that if the organizers were required to pay such costs in advance, such disturbances would be minimized and the police could be employed more beneficially.

Yours faithfully,  
P. DEAN,  
3 Ashley Gardens,  
Petersham,  
Surrey.  
October 13.

From Mr Tom Stoppard  
Sir, I would be grateful if

show for long prison sentences.  
The distance from Prague to Belgrade is 500 kilometres, or more if you go the long way round and up to infinity if you keep missing the way.

Pass the marmalade.

Yours sincerely,  
**TOM STOPPARD,**  
Wood Lane,  
Iwerheath,  
Buckinghamshire.

October 13.

From Mr Peter Thompson  
Sir, The most surprising

employment in the British steel industry, according to the Federation of British Industries (FBI), declined by 2.5 per cent a year between 1969 and 1975, compared with a 1.6 per cent annual decline in the manufacturing industry. Moreover, the nationalized industries *Blue Book*, records that from 1968, when steel workers were transferred to the public sector, until last year, employment in public corporations declined slightly faster than private sector employment by 5.7 per cent against 5.6 per cent.

Obviously further national  
threatens to bring mor

**Rolling back frontiers**  
 from Mrs Ruth Winawer

Mr. Would you agree that the phrase "roll back the frontiers of the state", used by William Hague when he was acclaimed as a speaker at the Tory Conference, is entirely meaningless, and probably irresistible for use as a Tory election slogan?

Yours faithfully,  
 URS WINAWER,  
 Chalcor Crescent,  
 Epsom, Surrey.

\_\_\_\_\_



# The way to stop this continual shrinking of free speech

What disturbance of public order should society be prepared to risk, tolerate, or suppress, to uphold free speech and assembly? This question has been sharply posed by several local councils' decisions, following the violence at Lewisham and Ladywood, to put a temporary ban on political meetings in public halls; and in the case of Tameside Council, a ban on marches as well.

This growing inability, or unwillingness, of ordinary law to cope with political violence foreshadows a further shrinking of the freedom to say "dislikeful, unacceptable, provocative, antagonistic things" (as Lord Brooke of Cunnor once put it).

The groundwork for this has been laid by growing acceptance—as the Labour Party conference debate showed—of three, closely connected, propositions: that certain opinions are wicked, and should be denied a platform; that when disturbances arise at political rallies, it is the organizers of the rallies rather than their opponents who are to blame; and that the best way to deal with such disturbances is to prevent the occasions which may give rise to them. Before being hustled out of our liberties, we should look very closely at these arguments.

Let us take the first one. It is argued that the unpleasant

character of the National Front's policies should be sufficient ground for denying facilities for their propagation. There is no warrant for such a view in our political or legal tradition.

The classic liberal statement is, of course, John Stuart Mill's: "If all mankind minus one were of one opinion, and only one person were of the contrary opinion, mankind would be no more justified in silencing that one person, than he, if he had the power, would be justified in silencing mankind."

Practice has not lived up to this ideal. Nevertheless, the British tradition has been that speech was free unless public safety or public order was involved. And even where public order was at issue, limitations were applied to language rather than to opinions. Thus, in the interests of public order, it is an offence to use, in public, threatening, abusive, or insulting words or behaviour; or to incite to racial hatred.

The growing attempt to widen political censorship from language to opinion has arisen, I think from five main causes. First, the spread of democracy has made certain opinions (particularly racist ones) offensive to popular sentiment. Secondly, the growth of the social sciences has made certain types of discourse seem

disreputable, because "irrational". Thirdly, recent history has shown that words can kill. Fourthly, large-scale population movements have created insecure and vulnerable minorities who feel they need explicit protection.

Finally, because self-control is now less highly valued than self-expression, there is less disposition to keep calm in face of provocation. As a result, various opinions have come to be treated by important groups as intolerable, thus the call to ban them.

This should be strongly resisted, even if it means defending the right of politicians we find repulsive to advocate policies we find repulsive. Why? First, that right is part of what we mean by a free society. Secondly, rights withdrawn from one group can easily be withdrawn from others. Thirdly, any society needs the challenge of extreme, even offensive, opinions.

It is often the extremist who triggers off the argument which leads to a creative response to a genuine problem. Exclusive emphasis on peace and consensus obscures this important fact.

If certain opinions are wicked, it follows reasonably enough that those individuals or organizations putting them forward are themselves to blame for any disturbances

which result. This view has steadily been gaining ground. Yet again there is no real warrant for it in our legal tradition.

The traditional view, that a lawful act cannot be prevented on the mere ground that it is likely to lead to a breach of the peace, received its classic statement in the famous case of *Beatty versus Gillbanks* (1882). Beatty, the leader of the Salvation Army in Weston-super-Mare, was appealing against a conviction for unlawful and tumultuous assembly.

After a number of clashes between the Salvation Army and a rival group (curiously named the Skeleton Army), the magistrates banned all further processions. Beatty ignored the ban, marched, was arrested, convicted, and bound over to keep the peace. On appeal, his counsel, Edward Clarke, argued that an unlawful assembly was "an assembly of persons with intent to do an unlawful act, or to do a lawful act in a tumultuous way, or so as to excite public terror".

Beatty's procession fell into neither of these categories; it certainly did not become unlawful merely because people opposed to it intended to commit unlawful acts. Rejecting opposing counsel's argument that, by persisting in trying to force a passage against opposition, the Salvation Army

leaders "though not themselves guilty of any riotous and tumultuous acts...were themselves the cause of them".

Mr Justice Field stated that there was no authority for holding that "a man can be convicted of a lawful act if he knows that his doing it may cause others to do an unlawful act". As the constitutional expert A. V. Dicey put it: "The plain principle is that a man's right to walk down the high street cannot be diminished by the threat to knock him down."

At one point, Field asked Clarke: "Suppose the appellants knew that their procession would be opposed, and that violence might probably ensue, and they still proceeded with it?" Clarke replied: "The answer to that is that their procession being lawful they were entitled to be and ought to have been protected by the authorities from such opposition."

"If it were not so, mob rule would soon take the place of law and order. It is disorderly rowdies and riotous roughs whom the police should put down, and not lawful and peaceable processions."

However, an equally famous case, *Wise versus Dunning* (1901), significantly qualified the earlier judgment. A Protestant pastor, George Wise, was in the habit of holding meet-

ings in Liverpool's Islington Square, during which he called Catholics "radicals" — put beads round his neck, and waved a crucifix over his head.

After Catholics had rushed or stoned the platform several times, the police asked Mr Wise to stop holding meetings. When he nevertheless tried to address an angry crowd, he was charged and convicted of unlawful assembly. On appeal, his counsel, the young F. E. Smith, argued that the decision in *Beatty versus Gillbanks* applied to this case. However, opposing counsel argued that the actions of the Catholics were the "natural consequence" of the insulting expressions which he used towards them, and he must be taken to have intended that consequence.

This argument was accepted by the three judges in disallowing the appeal. Mr Justice Darling remarked: "I think the natural consequence of this 'crusader's' eloquence has been to produce illegal acts". The question was one of "facts and evidence".

Thus the "limit of human endurance" argument had made its appearance. This reflected the atmosphere at the time of the Boer War, when "patriotic" roughs were given a more or less free hand to break up "provocative" anti-war meetings. (C. P. Trevelyan strongly objected to this

license at the time: "It is of no importance whether we approve or not of these ideas. They have the right to express them and the police and the law must defend them".)

Nevertheless, after *Wise versus Dunning*, the traditional principle that meetings or marches could not be prevented just because they would be violently opposed still stood, except in those cases where violent opposition could be shown to be a "natural consequence" of things which had been said, or were likely to be said, by their organizers.

However, the matter has not rested there. The view that certain opinions are wicked, and therefore opponents are justified in denying them a platform, has naturally led to the third proposition: that the best way to stop disorder is to ban occasions likely to cause offence. This reasoning clearly underlies section 3 of the Public Order Act of 1936. By making possible the banning of processions on the sole ground of a threat to public order it deliberately rejects both the obligation to act against inciting or actual disorders on the one hand, and the obligation to act against the organizers of the assemblies on the other. It is therefore essential that both, which public or technically private should normally be available for letting for public meetings.

In difficult cases, the relevant authorities should make inquiries into "facts and evidence". The mere intention of putting forward a distasteful policy, or the mere announcement of a counter-demonstration, should not be sufficient ground for denying an application.

No doubt applications occasionally have to be turned down. But in general the authorities should display more the robust attitude recommended by Baron Alderson in 1839. Upholding the right of magistrates to prevent meetings "which in the opinion of the magistrates are likely to be dangerous to the peace of the neighbourhood" he went on to say that "it is not the duty of the magistrates to prevent a meeting which is likely to be a source of trouble and disturbance, but to prevent a meeting which is likely to be a source of trouble and disturbance".

In the real world, this will not always be possible. In particular, it is more difficult to justify the right of procession than the right of free speech. The threats to public order which marches pose can

become very severe; they are not a means of persuasion by argument; finally, any legal judgment on the lawfulness of a disputed march is likely to be unsatisfactory. The National Front's marches, like those of the fascists in the 1930s, are intended both to persuade some and provoke or frighten others.

However, if the traditions of free speech are to be increasingly limited on security grounds, some alternative means of publicity must be allowed small groups. Newspaper editors and television and radio producers should perhaps accept an obligation to give reasonable coverage to the right of access to minor parties and controversial opinions (a just opinion is liable to cause mild dissent in the Reform Club).

Guarantee of free speech is much more important in the future, perhaps, all communication between speakers and audiences will be through sophisticated electronic means. It is therefore essential that both, which public or technically private should normally be available for letting for public meetings.

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Robert Skidelsky

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## Desert hijack: a birthday cake for 'Anna Maria' adds to the fantasy

Dubai, Oct 16

There was something impressively theatrical about the Lufthansa Boeing 737 in the early hours today as it squatted in the darkness at the end of the runway. Almost two miles down the airstrip, the lights of Dubai's surreal, white concrete and glass terminal glowed gold in the hot night while the big jets still took off eastwards over the gulf, racing with their wing lights flashing just above the hijacked plane. It was as if it was only parked, empty for the night on the sand, the victim of one of these technical faults that provoke passengers in the departure lounge.

It lay only 200 yards from the main road and in the darkness you could not at first see the emirates soldiers lying on their bellies at the top of the sand dune, their rifles beside them, between the road and the plane. But the hi-jackers' deadline was only 12 hours away and it seemed that most people were preparing for a spectacle of some kind.

Just across the road from the sand dune was an unfinished office block—a building so close to the desert that sand had already crept on to the inside stairway—and on the humid roof sat batteries of television crews, their cameras all pointed into the darkness, the green and yellow running lights beneath the miniature television screens winking occasionally. Wires and umbrellas led along the stairs to a generator outside, while a sound man at the end of one balcony, his earphones connected to a microphone that actually lay only a few feet from the wheels of the hijacked plane, listened to the noise of the cabin door as it opened and shut.

The fuselage was in darkness and you could see nothing of the passengers inside. Whether they could see the television crews awaiting their fate was uncertain, but the potential victims could hardly have been asleep. The aircraft's power had given out and the engines, which had collapsed more than an hour before, at 3.45 am the humidity and heat on the roof were so intense that condensation was running in rivulets down the raincoats of the photographers and camera crews. One did not like to imagine what it must have been like inside the plane.

Now and then, a vehicle would approach the machine, its headlights spreading for a moment over the fuselage and blue-painted tail as it bumped over the sand. A mechanic walked towards the plane and offered the hijackers a generator to run their power system and lamp to place on the ground. A figure appeared at the door of the passenger cabin and the sound man from

Emirates television listen emballed behind his camera. If you pressed your ear to his headset, you could hear the conversation. It was high-pitched and frightened but still somehow surreal, a badly scripted film. The hijacker spoke in English with a German accent. "I've got you already," his voice crackled down the line into the headset. "Don't come any closer. If you don't stop I'll shoot."

The line popped and hissed and some of the conversation was lost until we heard a gunshot. "Warn the plane," the approaching mechanic said. "That's not good for you. The mechanic retreated."

Not long afterwards an ambulance drove up the runway and stopped with its headlights shining the cockpit. Two men walked towards the plane at the time; you could see them illuminated in the lights, two men in figures who had come to the aid of the hijackers, one of them a child and the sick. The RA lost of power had cut communications with the control tower and the two men shouted through bullhorns.

The hijacker at the door spoke in Arabic this time. "The Major," he said, "is a guard and the science of television. You know from the way the hijacker bawled back at them from the cabin that he would not be taking any passengers."

In the control tower, a circular drum-shaped object supported by a curved pillar the size of a giant mushroom, the hijacker's defence minister negotiated as best they could. The soldiers on the tarmac below would sometimes look up when the hijackers in red uniforms walked black down the road from the black box to the tower. The hijacker could pass on his progress to the world's press through a telephone specially installed in a carpeted lounge where journalists and photographers could sleep on embroidered cushions. It has been the minister's duty to send a birthday cake to "Anna Maria", the semi-mythical stewardess who was yesterday. It was a ceremonial duty carried out under the guns of the hijackers. The men said that the occupants of the control tower could not join in this exercise of hijacker celebrations, but the hijackers captured for the moment when the cake with its 28 candles was handed over.

Not that the man from Stern magazine would have worried if it had occurred after nightfall. For through the hours of darkness, he could watch the plane through a camera "night-vision" lens that transformed the black and white world into a brightly lit scene. The hijacker in a pale green light that took the potentially tragic drama even further into fantasy.

Robert Fisk

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Business  
book  
reviews,  
page 20

## EEC proposals to ease crisis in shipbuilding ready soon

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Correspondent

Details of the latest policy proposals to tackle the crisis in shipbuilding are being prepared by the European Commission and should be made public within a fortnight.

They will embrace both a new directive on shipbuilding aids and an outline plan for restructuring, which has been produced by the Commission's industrial policy directorate under the supervision of Viscount Etienne Davignon, the Commissioner for Industry.

The existing directive—the third—was introduced three years ago and expires at the end of this year. At the time of its introduction the industry was booming and order books were bulging.

But even then it was recognized that a crisis was on the way, as a result of substantial cutbacks in demand for new ships which in turn has led to worldwide over-capacity.

Under the present directive, considerable emphasis is placed on reducing state aid to Community shipyards. But the collapse in demand has led virtually every European nation to introduce aid schemes to bolster shaky shipyards.

The latest directive is expected to make provisions for the various crisis measures now in operation to be incorporated within a new legal framework. Meanwhile, considerable interest is focused on the measures on which Viscount Davignon's officials have been working. But government officials in member states have so far had little indication of the measures likely to emerge.

It is widely expected, nevertheless, that the emphasis will be on tighter control of state assistance, closely linked to conditions for the construction and reshaping of the industry. This policy would be in line with those already unveiled for coping with the similar problems of Europe's steel industry. The Commission has emphasized in the case of steel that



Viscount Etienne Davignon: questions on Polish deal...

no Community funds would be available for any project which increased capacity.

But the shipbuilding plan will almost certainly experience strong opposition, particularly from West Germany and Denmark, which have consistently opposed policies involving intervention.

Britain, whose 165m intervention fund established earlier this year to provide subsidies to close the price gap between British and foreign prices, could face a ruse with the Commission over the terms of the proposed £15m Anglo-Polish shipbuilding deal.

All contracts which receive subsidy aid from the fund are subject to the Commission's scrutiny. The Polish package is expected to attract a subsidy of about £25m, and Viscount Davignon has indicated that his officials will be asking some searching questions on the terms before it is approved by Brussels.

Further negotiations on the Polish order are unlikely to be completed before the end of this month, although there was hope that some progress could have been made on financing terms last week.

## Government urged to renegotiate IMF pact

By David Blake  
Economics Correspondent

Britain's terms with the International Monetary Fund for next year should be renegotiated to allow a much bigger expansion of domestic credit, a larger public deficit and a larger increase in money supply, unless the Government is willing to let the pound float upwards, according to the London Business School.

In the latest edition of its Economic Outlook, the School's Centre for Economic Forecasting suggests that the right targets for the fiscal year 1978-79 are £3,000m for domestic credit expansion, £3,000m to £3,500m for public sector borrowing and an increase in the money supply of 16 per cent.

Under the present terms agreed with the Fund, DCE is expected to be £6,000m and the PSBR £8,500m during the next financial year.

A team from the IMF is coming to London in late November to discuss among other things, possible changes in these targets. No agreement on growth of the money supply has been reached with the Fund, but the LBS suggestion would involve significantly faster growth than the 9 to 13 per cent range aimed at for this year.

The joint authors of the study, Mr Alan Budd and Mr Terry Burns, have for some months advocated that sterling should be floated.

As the leading proponents of what is known as the "International Monetary Fund" school, they argue that changes in the exchange rate are the means by which inflation is either fuelled or dented. They now say that the Government has clearly decided not to let sterling go up and that in consequence the very tight monetary targets currently being observed are reducing output rather than inflation.

They suggest that the Government ought to reconsider its whole approach to running the economy. It should set medium-term targets for such things as inflation and growth, then work out the appropriate growth in money supply and domestic credit.

Economic forecast, page 18.

## Boost for imports to reduce mounting trade surplus

# Tokyo pledges support for the dollar

Tokyo, Oct 16.—Japanese monetary authorities are ready to defend the yen at 250 to the dollar "at any price", according to officials here.

Government and Bank of Japan leaders have decided to counter possible huge speculative buying of the yen on the Tokyo money market by directly intervening with active support buying of the dollar to keep it from plunging below the 250-yen level.

They share the view that the yen has gone "too far above normal value" over the past two weeks.

It is generally believed that the break-even point of the export prices of Japanese goods is set on the assumption that one dollar will buy 255 yen.

The Bank of Japan is understood to have bought about \$300m on Friday to prevent further depreciation of the yen.

The yen ended the day at its all-time postwar high of 253 to the dollar.

The governments and central banks of Japan, West Germany and Switzerland, increasingly identified with the American position of letting the dollar float freely, intend to stop up efforts to coordinate action against speculative attacks on their currencies, they said—Agence France-Press.

Pressure on yen: Japan is to cut back its

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mounting trade surplus by about \$700m (£400m) by the end of this year in an effort to ease international pressure on the yen, government sources said at the weekend. The plan follows the latest instruction by Mr Fukuda, the Prime Minister, to cabinet ministers to expedite measures to raise the level of imports.

Mr Fukuda said he would detail the emergency measures to reduce Japan's trade surplus as soon as possible.

"The amount of emergency imports will be announced as soon as it is decided", he told the House of Representatives Budget Committee.—AP-Dow Jones.

## Dr Burns airs doubt on money supply figures

From Our United States  
Economics Correspondent  
Washington, Oct 16

Dr Arthur Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve system, has cast doubt on the reliability of the Fed's money supply statistics.

His concern on this front may play an important role in influencing the decisions reached by the Fed's open market committee at its Tuesday meeting.

Dr Burns told a small group of British merchant bankers that he believed the money supply figures were too narrowly defined to be reliable.

He told them, along with several groups of American bankers in recent private conversations, that he was becoming convinced that the broader indicators of the money supply were more accurate than the narrow M1 measure.

The money supply has increased sharply in recent months, and most bankers expect the Fed's committee to decide upon a further round of credit-tightening at its meeting.

But bankers stress that the extent of the tightening may well depend on the weight attached by the committee to the M1 figures.

M1, which consists of currency in circulation plus demand deposits, has been expanding in recent months at an annual rate some 3 to 4 percentage points above the Fed's declared target ceiling of 6.5 per cent.

If the committee decides to attach considerable importance to the M1 figures, it may well do in the past—then it will almost certainly have to agree to a considerable tightening of its monetary policies.

However, both M2 and M3

have exceeded the Fed's ceiling target growth levels by about 1 to 2 percentage points in recent months, and heavy reliance on these figures by the committee might result in only some moderate further tightening of credit policies.

M2 consists of M1 plus deposits at commercial banks, other than large certificates of deposit, while M3 consists of M2, plus deposits in savings institutions.

Dr Burns has stressed in private conversations with bankers that changes in financial techniques and in market conditions have increasingly tended to make M1 an unreliable guide to the underlying money growth.

He has made similar points in public over the last couple of years, although he is now said to be more convinced than ever of this fact.

M2 and M3 are seen as more accurate guides because of the increasing use of telephone transfers of cash from current to savings accounts.

Other factors are wider use of overdrafts by the general public, and because both individuals and businesses appear to be making greater use of savings accounts and so maintaining lower general balances on current accounts.

The open market committee meets behind closed doors and the public release of the minutes of Tuesday's meeting will not be made available by the Fed until next month.

However, the committee does set operating instructions for the Fed's intervention in the money markets, and thus agreements to tighten policies may well be reflected later this week in increases in the rates for Federal funds.

## Nigeria cuts crude price to keep sales

By Our Energy Correspondent

Another big oil-producing country has been forced by the world price of crude to offer discounts in an attempt to stop its production declining further.

Nigeria is offering a 10 to 15 cents a barrel rebate to companies that guarantee to lift all the crude specified under contracts with the state oil company, according to the magazine Petroleum Intelligence Weekly (PIW).

Discussions of this size could eventually have repercussions for North Sea oil prices, which are used to the costs of similar quality oil in Nigeria, Algeria and Libya.

So far Algeria and Libya have said they will stick by their official prices. Since the world price of crude emerged earlier this year, the price of North Sea crude has declined by about 30 to 50 cents a barrel and industry sources say they would certainly go lower still, to about \$13.90 a barrel, if Algeria and Libya follow the Nigerian lead.

PIW says the rebates are a response to a 200,000 barrels a day drop in production to two million barrels a day in July and August. Since then that situation has deteriorated and contracts for a further 200,000 barrels a day may not be renewed and another 200,000 barrels a day are in jeopardy.

## BNOC seeking North Sea stake in Hamilton

By Roger Violevo  
Department of Energy

Officials and the British National Oil Corporation are seeking a majority holding for the state in the Hamilton Brothers North Sea consortium, the only group with a commercial oilfield that has so far escaped the participation net.

The decision to start negotiations with the group represents a change of tactics by the department, which has been seeking to acquire the state-owned Hamilton Brothers North Sea consortium, which has two potentially commercial oilfields—Crawford and Bruce—further north. The Government is seeking a deal that would give them participation in the future development of these and a stake in the existing Argill field.

Hamilton Brothers, which heads a consortium of Rio Tinto-Zinc, Texaco, Blackrock Oil and Transocean, has suffered setbacks with the Argill field after producing from it the first oil from the British sector of the North Sea.

Water has encroached on the field, which is 220 miles east of Dundee. This has forced the group to reassess the recoverable reserves at 10 to 12 million barrels fewer than the original estimate of 35 million barrels.

Some of this deficit is being made good by a new well drilled close to the main field which will produce an extra 5,000 barrels a day when it is hooked into the production system later this year.

American oil imports might be between 12 million and 13 million barrels a day by 1985, twice as high as the target set by President Carter.

General Accounting Office disclosed in a letter to Congress. It is the second time that the GAO, a congressional research agency, has questioned President Carter's objective of reducing oil imports from their present nine million barrels a day to six million barrels a day by 1985.

In a report last July it suggested that the United States would have to increase imports to 10.3 million barrels a day by the middle of the 1980s. Further analysis makes the situation look even worse, and imports will probably hit 12 million or 13 million barrels daily by 1985.

Public investment and ownership were critical parts of the recovery of a society whose living standards and public service rested upon manufacturers.

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## Oil 'mask' warning by Mr Benn

Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, gave warning yesterday that North Sea Oil could be "a mask which conceals the decline of our economy".

He told delegates to the annual conference of the London Co-operative Society's Political Committee: "Don't think it will necessarily solve our problem."

Britain, Mr Benn said, was in a process of de-industrialization and it was essential that the revenue from oil should be used for rearmament in industry.

"I have seen industry after industry in this country upon which our living standards rest going down because of the lack of investment", he said. "I have seen it in shipbuilding, aircraft, machine tools, the motor industry, motor cycles and electronics."

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## President's rip-off allegation 'too slick'

Many American oil company executives believe that President Carter deliberately sought to mislead the general public about the scale of the oil industry's profits when he declared last Thursday that the oil companies are trying to mount "the biggest rip-off in history".

Those unfamiliar with the scale of oil industry operations may have concluded that the figures used by the President referred to profits. But, in fact, they make sense only in terms of the industry's gross turnover.

The President spoke continually of income, never mentioning gross income or turnover, but once talking of profiteering. He said the industry would get income of \$100,000m (about £57,435m) under his programme by 1985. But that it wanted \$150,000m.

Lobbyists for the oil companies, who are now the target of the President's annoyance, were arriving on Capitol Hill on Thursday and Friday to clarify their profits situation.

They need not have worried, however, since Senator Russell Long, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, from the oil producing state of Louisiana, is well informed and the President's statements appeared to have had no effect on him at all.

So on Friday the Senate Finance Committee concluded its work on the President's energy programme and sent to the full Senate a Bill that not only bears little resemblance to the proposal by the Administration, but which will undoubtedly boost gross incomes and profits of the oil companies if it ever becomes law.

The full Senate might change the committee's Bill and the House of Representatives would then have to pass it. The struggle over energy policy within Congress and between Congress, the President and the oil companies looks like being more arduous than ever.

The Senate Finance Committee's Bill contains none of the tax increases proposed by the President as a means of increasing fuel conservation. Instead, the committee proposes \$32,000m of energy tax cuts for industry and individuals.

Oil industry leaders are too skilled in the ways of politics to fight President Carter head on. But they are bitterly annoyed at the President's statements and what they see as deceitful tactics.

In consequence the industry is likely to mount a major, but quiet campaign of congressional lobbying, while launching a national advertising campaign to demonstrate that its profits are no greater than those of other industries.

Frank Vogl

## Leyland's shopfloor confrontation

Continued from page 1.

moment of their imminent retirements.

There are stories being told privately of some violent verbal exchanges and thinly-veiled threats involving Mr Jones and Mr Lewis and some other T & GWU headquarters officials who have dared in recent weeks to question the sanctity of de-voled bargaining power.

Plant bargaining is the major power base of the stewards themselves, and having been told for many years by the unions' top leadership that they have an unassailable right to decision-making, they cannot now be blamed for believing it.

However, to the ordinary T & GWU member on the shop floor, at say, Longbridge, the realities of the crisis now facing Leyland may appear very different. There are grounds for believing that misgivings over the attitude the stewards are adopting towards even a forward commitment—two years hence, under the modified British Leyland proposals, may be shared by the next generation of union leaders, including Mr Moss Evans, the general secretary elect, and Mr Grenville Hawley, automotive group secretary.

A shop floor revolt against T & GWU stewards' rigid opposition to the Leyland package is already being mounted by "moderate" elements in some of the car plants. It is based on substantial arguments about

the extent of the sacrifice needed to preserve the questionable advantages of local wage bargaining.

First, jobs, since a second restructuring of Leyland cars and a reappraisal of the investment programme for whatever units remain would inevitably mean large-scale redundancies, perhaps running into many thousands of workers (remember the Chrysler rescue plan?).

Secondly, rejection of the package means throwing away the cash benefits that are on offer along with the new wage bargaining structure.

These include a general pay increase of 10 per cent (Government permitting) from next month, parity between the car plants phased over a two-year period (a lot of money for a lot of workers is at stake here), an incentive scheme based on "self-financing productivity" starting in January, improved sick pay, and a better deal on lay off pay.

In weighing up the cost of rejection of the Leyland plan, shopfloor workers may well ask themselves why their stewards are so violently opposed to centralised wage bargaining in Leyland cars. The T & GWU is already a party to national wage deals in Ford (where Mr Moss Evans himself chairs the union negotiating team), Vauxhall, and Chrysler and has only last week agreed to launch new national pay and conditions claims in engineering and shipbuilding, where the T & GWU is part of a joint wage-bargain-

ing team.

All in all, it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that while the stewards now win the battle of the day, they may ultimately lose the war through a mutiny of their own membership.

The motor industry, and with it the Government, faces a decisive moment in the coming weeks. The Ford negotiators (frontrunners of the T & GWU-dominated Ford National Joint Negotiating Committee, with the putting of the company's latest proposals to meetings of workers' all over the country. Strike action is threatened if the package is rejected and an improved offer is not forthcoming.

Vauxhall's NJNC meets again on Thursday for more talks on new wage deals. Traditionally, settlements in Vauxhall—owned by General Motors of America—have always followed the Ford pattern, and its union representatives will clearly be reluctant to sign until the final terms of the Ford deal are known.

Meanwhile, impatient with the lack of progress on their demands for restoration of skilled differentials, more than 800 maintenance engineers are on strike from Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant on Merseyside.

And while the vital decision-making goes on, some 15,000 workers are already idle at Leyland cars, with several key assembly lines halted, because of disputes over pay and manning.

The real nightmare, page 19

## Cash delays hit builders

By John Huxley

Delays over payments for construction contracts and sub-contractors are causing serious concern, the National Joint Consultative Committee for Building reported yesterday.

In a procedure note, the NJCC said the delays were causing exceptionally severe cash flow problems at a time when the industry was experiencing its worst recession in 50 years.

"It has been estimated that the total of sums due to be paid, but which are unpaid, to contractors, subcontractors and suppliers is now given as over a billion pounds."

The report said that the situation was likely to worsen unless the Government took action to speed up payments.

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London Business School forecasters chart economic prospects for Britain up to year 1981

## Single-figure inflation may prove a false dawn

By David Blake  
Economics Correspondent

Latest forecasts of the London Business School predict a slow recovery for the United Kingdom from the low point reached in the middle of this year, with sluggish world demand holding back the British economy.

On present policies, inflation is predicted to fall into single figures briefly in the early part of next year, but it is then expected to pick up and remain in double figures until the end of the decade.

Unemployment will probably go on rising on present policies until 1979, by which time it could stand at more than 250,000 above the 1977 average.

Britain's sluggish recovery is seen to be very heavily conditioned by a predicted slowdown in world trade growth overall.

Although the forecasters believe this slowdown will be less severe than they thought in the spring—because governments are now thought likely to try to avoid deflationary action—they expect world trade to expand by only 5.2 per cent in 1978 and 6.7 per cent in 1979, both figures well below their postwar trend.

The forecasters predict that the traditional business cycle will reassert itself in spite of the fact that the recovery during the upswing has been weak.

Within the United Kingdom the continuation of present policies, including observance of the IMF guidelines for 1978-79 is likely to lead to 1.7 per cent growth of output in 1978, compared to 1 per cent growth this year.

Consumption, which is predicted to fall by 0.5 per cent in 1977 will probably go up by 1.7 per cent in 1978 and 2.3 per cent in 1979, with an even faster growth of 4.5 per cent in 1980 and 3.1 per cent in 1981.

Exports are expected to rise by 4.7 per cent next year and 4 per cent in 1979 after 7.4 per cent growth in 1977—a function of weakening world demand.

The forecasters look to a boom in private housebuilding next year, with a 17 per cent growth rate almost wiping out the 18.3 per cent fall experienced during 1977.

Private investment in projects other than housing is expected to expand 10.5 per cent in 1978, 3 per cent in both

1979 and 1980, and 1.2 per cent in 1981, against a 1977 assumption of 1.4 per cent.

Within the economy the next few years are likely to see a shift of income away from employment towards profits, with North Sea revenue dominating the recovery. The company sector apart from the North Sea is not expected to do particularly well, though its share should rise from 6.4 per cent of gdp in 1978 to 7 per cent in 1981.

On the assumption that all the higher bands of income tax are indexed as well as the standard allowances, and assuming excise duties keep up with inflation, the Government's borrowing need should fall slightly next year and then increase to just over £9,000m in 1978 and 1979, according to London Business School experts.

Wages will probably go up by just over 15 per cent during this year and by the same amount in the following year. It will not be until 1980 that they come down significantly to a 10 per cent annual increase.

Productivity growth is put at only 0.7 per cent this year but likely to rise to 2.6 per cent in

1978, 3.4 per cent in 1979, 4.6 per cent in 1980, falling off slightly to 3.5 per cent in 1981.

In a special chapter containing a study on movements in the real exchange rate, the authors conclude that it would be possible for Britain to maintain the pound's effective rate at its present level of 62.5 per

cent for the next two years even if British inflation runs significantly above average world levels.

*Economic Outlook 1977-81:* The London Business School Centre for Economic Forecasting. Published by Gower Press, 1 Westmead, Farnborough, Hampshire.

## THE FORECAST IN BRIEF

Annual percentage change	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
World industrial production	9.1	4.8	2.6	3.3	5.8	8.0
UK Gross Domestic Product	1.2	0.6	1.7	2.4	3.5	2.5
Consumers expenditure	0.4	-0.9	1.7	2.3	4.5	3.1
Private fixed investment (excluding dwellings)	-4.3	1.4	10.9	3.1	3.1	1.2
Public expenditure on goods and services	1.0	-3.1	-0.5	2.3	4.2	4.1
Exports	7.4	7.4	4.7	4.0	6.1	5.9
Imports	3.8	5.0	3.9	6.4	8.9	7.4
Consumer prices	15.2	14.8	12.6	12.5	8.7	6.8
Average earnings in manufacturing	16.8	10.8	15.3	15.2	9.7	9.8
Money supply (M3)	8.3	7.1	12.1	13.1	14.4	16.3
Annual average						
Wholly unemployed ('000 GB)	1,222	1,335	1,516	1,580	1,529	1,510
Annual total						
Balance of payments (£m)	-1,404	156	1,948	2,668	1,572	1,268

## Oxford faces up to the vulnerability of Leyland

By a Special Correspondent

In the year Oxford is celebrating the centenary of the birth of William Morris, the creator of its motor industry, the company and its employees face yet another traumatic period. Events in the next few weeks will determine the size of Oxford's motor industry in the years ahead.

An Oxford without a thriving motor industry is something about which many people choose not to think. Many employees refuse to acknowledge British Leyland's vulnerability.

There is little doubt that Leyland will continue in some shape or form. The number of jobs it provides in Oxford and elsewhere in the next few years is the great imponderable. Oxford has become as dependent on the Cowley car factories for its prosperity as motorists depend on their products. One person in seven at work in the Oxford area is on Leyland's payroll.

Ever since mass production of cars began at Cowley, more than 50 years ago, the number of employees has grown. The warning signs now indicate a possible decline—not overnight, but little by little as the months roll by.

When Morris began making cars, in 1913, the university dominated Oxford; nowadays the people of Cowley regard the "dramatic spire" as their Latin quarter.

Academic Oxford makes

## Industry in the Regions

many contributions to industry, not only through the numerous experts in industrial relations or the Oxford Centre of Management Studies, but in a growing number of other often more direct ways.

Several companies of scientific instruments makers have been established in Oxford, and many of them have close ties with the university, and use its experts as consultants.

The origins of Oxford Instruments, now internationally famous, were humble—in a garden shed in north Oxford.

The modern successor to the iron lung is made in Oxford by a firm started by a former university technician.

Further afield, in rural Oxfordshire, is the Atomic Energy Research Centre at Harwell, and since its development in the early postwar years other scientific laboratories have sprung up around it.

Oxford's science-based industries are among the few in the area showing signs of further growth.

Leyland provides more than 24,000 jobs in the Oxford area, where it has six factories—four at Cowley, one at Abingdon (the home of the MG sports cars), and another on the fringe of Witney north Oxford, where Leyland's

exhaust systems are produced.

The Cowley end of Leyland comprises body and assembly plants better remembered by their original names—Pressed Steel and Morris Motors. An adjacent export packing factory is affectionately recalled as Nutfield Exports, its first name.

Within the next two years Leyland's annual wage bill in the Oxford area is expected to top £100m—if reforms are carried out and the company remains in being.

Apart from Leyland's employees, the Oxford area has other workers in the motor industry working for component manufacturers. A precise figure is not known, but a conservative estimate is about 5,000. The biggest of these factories is at Witney, where Smith's Industries make car heaters.

In the prewar years, Lord Nutfield, as William Morris became, made enough money to give away more than £30m, mostly in the cause of the world of medicine.

Now the motor company he helped to create is in need of a different form of aid—a shot in the arm, an injection of public cash to ensure its survival. Leyland's long-term plans in the Oxford area include a new plant at Cow-

ley costing about £30m. However, it has not yet been given the go-ahead by the company's paymaster, the National Enterprise Board.

Stevenage's strategic position, on the crossroads of major road and rail links, made it an obvious choice for an inland port, but this project is still in its early stages.

Until Morris came along, an Oxford engineering company, W. Luch & Co. used to be Oxford's chief manufacturer, with 600 employees. Having been in business continually for about 250 years, it can claim to be one of Oxford's oldest concerns.

But even older is Oxford University Press, which came into being soon after William Caxton introduced printing to England. The OUP is celebrating its quatercentenary next year. Printing and publishing developed into Oxford's second industry, and still covers this distinction.

Yet another industrial spin off from the university, is the growth of the education industry—not the academics, but those who make it their business to provide educational aids.

Hunt and Broadhurst, the Oxford stationers, have kept up with the times by setting up an audio-visual aid department.

These companies find, not surprisingly, that an Oxford address is helpful in the education business.

## Safety consultation urged

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Reporter

Unions and employers are being urged by the Government to start immediate arrangements for safety representatives and safety committees at the work place, ahead of safety regulations that come into operation next October.

Mr John Grant, Under Secretary of State for Employment, said some sensible firms were already discussing consultative structures with unions. "I strongly urge more of them to follow suit where possible and not to drag their feet unnecessarily," he said. "That goes for public and private sector alike."

Mr Grant was speaking at the presentation of the Bland Payne Safety Awards at the Savoy Hotel, London. Ten pairs of winners from the joint safety committees left on Saturday for the United States National Safety Congress in Chicago.

## Business appointments

## Changes at National Bank of New Zealand

The board and head office of The National Bank of New Zealand Limited will be located in Wellington, New Zealand, from January 1. Lord Lloyd, at present chairman of the main board in London, will be chairman of the reconstituted London board.

Sir John Marshall, at present chairman of the local board in New Zealand, will become the first chairman of the main board in Wellington.

Viscount De L'Isle has become a director and chairman of Property Growth Assurance. He succeeds Mr E. W. Phillips, who remains on the board.

Mr N. G. Johnston, has been made managing director of Reema Construction, from October 23. He succeeds Mr P. J. Franklin, who remains chairman but who retires from the board of the holding company, Aberdeen Construction Group.

Mr G. S. G. Brown has been co-opted to the parent board of Ever Ready Company (Holdings).

Mr G. S. Blanchard, regional manager (United Kingdom and Europe) of the Bank of New Zealand, is elected chairman of The Associated Australasian Banks in London from November 1.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Conveyancing: the choices have to be made clear

From Mr S. P. Best

Sir, You have published a series of letters on house conveyancing in recent weeks, among them several dealing with the Scottish method. This association has been completing its very careful enquiries into the law and practice in Scotland with regard thereto, and will very shortly be presenting the results thereof to the Royal Commission on Legal Services. That so much publicity should be given to the suggestion that the Scottish conveyancing procedure be adopted is the more surprising having regard to the fact that the land law of Scotland (and conveyancing is the practical application of that law) is currently in a state of change and upheaval with the object of making sweeping reforms. I have deliberately refrained from referring to this matter hitherto until our enquiries were complete.

In essence, of course, the principal difference between the procedure in Scotland and in England, is that in Scotland most of the legal work done to protect the purchaser is done after the contract has been signed, and not before. Usually that favours the vendor rather than the purchaser. The most notable difference in house purchase between the two countries is the unimportant role of the estate agent in Scotland, most of the selling being undertaken by solicitors who put the property on the market and advertise it widely. Our enquiries support the view I originally expressed, namely that the Scots traditionally have respect for learning and it seems that they do not object to paying for the professional services of a solicitor who undertakes the whole function

in relation to the sale of property.

The Scottish procedure has advantages in some respects, but has serious disadvantages not suffered in England. If the public wants immediate binding contracts as in Scotland, it will have to put up with the problems this situation will bring. The public needs to be informed fully of the choices, and the reasons for them, and not to be misled by those who advocate one system without sufficient knowledge of it. The great and outstanding success is the growth of Solicitors' Property Centres in Scotland, which are run by solicitors in bright surroundings, providing a successful and popular service to the public. This is a facility which solicitors in England and Wales could well copy, providing a facility as a central point where particular of the majority of properties for sale by solicitors in the area can be seen by the public and their enquiries answered.

I hope that what I have said above will persuade your readers that the solicitor method of this association is not dragging their feet in the matter. Unfortunately, in the space of a short letter it is impossible to analyse and explain the full differences between the two countries, but this is undoubtedly a matter which will have to be fully explained if the public is to make an informed choice on this matter.

Yours faithfully,  
S. P. BEST,  
Chairman,  
British Legal Association,  
64 Highgate High Street,  
London N6 5HZ,  
October 11.

## Attitude to the 'driver's charter'

From Mr Bernard Gill

Sir, Miss S. Green's observations (October 10) about bungling EEC bureaucracy would have carried more weight if the basis suggested for the EEC 543/68—the driver's charter. Perhaps she would modify her view if she were asked to drive a bus on a busy circuit for 10 hours a day, or if she were to be involved in an accident caused by an over-tired or ill bus driver.

Mr G. K. Newman's plea for more time, which is now agreed will be needed to introduce EEC regulation 543/68, would have impressed the knowledgeable more if he admitted that there was no confusion about the EEC regulation until the United Kingdom signed the Treaty of

Accession. The French was no doubt disillusioned by the United Kingdom's refusal to act in a constructive manner not only on the question of the driver's hours regulation, but also on the question of tachographs and many other transport-related matters.

The response of Herr Genscher to Mr Callaghan's letter of reassurance to the general secretary of the Labour Party appears to support the view that Britain's aim certainly does seem to be both to belong to Europe and to undermine it at the same time.

Yours faithfully,  
BERNARD N. GILL,  
Orchard House, 79 Penn Road,  
Knocky Green,  
Buckinghamshire HP9 2LP,  
October 11.

From Mr S. P. Flower

Sir, John Argenti (October 5) does not appear to hold quite the same views as myself (or David Quaraby) as to the role of a corporate objective. This is illustrated by his use of the words "target" and "objective" as if they were interchangeable. The prime functions of an objective in a public enterprise must surely be to give a purpose and direction to the organization, to provide an explicit recognition of social goals, and to provide a basis for the division of responsibility between government and the enterprise.

However, as I understand his argument, Mr Argenti is not disputing the choice by London Transport of passenger miles as a measure of social product, but rather is suggesting that an infinite passenger mile target be replaced with a finite one set presumably somewhat higher than the current most optimistic forecasts. In so far as this target is actually unattainable, I would argue that the distinction between the two approaches is trivial, even from the point of view of management incentive.

What is important is that the actual performance is never good enough; a target which is unattainable provides no incentive towards further improvement. While some very optimistic target might be appropriate in business with high volatile market conditions, urban public transport characterized by a market which is exceedingly unresponsive to price and which is subject to political and social constraints, is not a business in which such a target is appropriate.

This last point takes on the significance of Mr Argenti's criterion of verifiability. The degree of achievement of a target can give no guide to the performance of an enterprise unless one is satisfied that a target itself represents a notion of the best possible performance attainable. The concept of audit is consequently misleading unless it can be extended as Mr Argenti has justly suggests to the decision-making (or in his view, set setting) processes.

Yours faithfully,  
S. P. FLOWER,  
25 Willes Road,  
London, NW5.



## Brazil: growing bigger every day

## May we introduce you?

Development of more than 2½ million square miles of Brazilian forest is proceeding hand in hand with an ambitious reforestation programme. Timber and cellulose are not only exported but used locally to a great extent.

It is all part of the country's determination to expand the base of its economy—a determination reflected, for example, in an 8.8% national growth rate in 1976, an 11% increase in the industrial sector, a tenfold increase in output of agricultural tractors over 20 years, and growth of 13.4% in civil construction.

Yet for all this astonishing growth, Brazil is

still a developing country, with a vast appetite for foreign investment and specialised imports. Its 110 million people represent the most exciting market potential in the free world. And the Bank of Brazil can help you explore and enjoy it.

The Bank of Brazil is by far the largest in the Southern Hemisphere, and as the national bank of Brazil it has unrivalled sources of information and a network of personal contacts throughout agriculture, industry and commerce. No one is better equipped to introduce you to the world's next industrial giant.

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BANCO DO BRASIL S.A.

## Clydesdale Bank

## BASE RATE

Clydesdale Bank Limited announces that with effect from 17th October, 1977, its Base Rate for lending is being reduced from 7% to 6% per annum.

## BANK OF SCOTLAND

## BASE RATE

The Bank of Scotland intimates that, as from 17th OCTOBER, 1977, and until further notice, its Base Rate will be reduced from 7% PER ANNUM TO 6% PER ANNUM.

## LONDON OFFICES—DEPOSITS

The rate of interest on sums lodged for a minimum period of seven days will remain at 3% PER ANNUM.

## THE EXPLORATION COMPANY LIMITED

## INTERIM STATEMENT

The Directors announce the following financial results based on unaudited accounts (including the fully-owned subsidiary, Group Traders Limited but excluding the Associated Companies' results) for the half-year ended 30th June, 1977, with comparative figures—

	Six months ended 30th June, 1977	Six months ended 30th June, 1976	Year ended 31st December, 1976
Estimated profit before tax	208,989	147,547	428,139
Estimated tax	104,672	70,712	199,048
Estimated profit after tax	£104,316	£76,835	£229,091
Group assets, taking investments at Market value	£5,216,570	£5,032,808	£4,367,766

## EL ORO MINING &amp; EXPLORATION COMPANY LIMITED

## INTERIM STATEMENT

The Directors announce the following financial results based on unaudited accounts (including the fully-owned subsidiary, General Explorations Limited but excluding the Associated Companies' results) for the half-year ended 30th June, 1977, with comparative figures—

	Six months ended 30th June, 1977	Six months ended 30th June, 1976	Year ended 31st December, 1976
Estimated profit before tax	117,761	135,917	324,848
Estimated tax	52,805	86,251	157,286
Estimated profit after tax	£64,956	£49,666	£167,562
Group assets, taking investments at Market value	£2,939,872	£2,902,855	£2,577,904



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## An equity gap for private companies?

There are an estimated 1.25 million private companies in Britain. Of these a mere 3,500 are presently on the books of the venture and development capital businesses as recipients of equity and loan capital. Any assessment by the Wilson Committee of whether there is a shortage of private capital for small companies must eventually come back to these statistics. Since the stock market has effectively dried up as a source of finance for growing private companies, it is clear that all except a small handful of companies is left to finance its new equity capital requirements internally.

The question is whether they can do so without having to develop more slowly than they otherwise would if capital was more freely available. Many of the 1.25 million private companies are, of course, semi-defunct or have negligible capital requirements. But it is as true for private as for public companies that capacity to borrow to finance growth is critically dependent upon ability to increase capital. Banks are usually more concerned about security in the form of assets than simple gearing ratios, but nonetheless have tended to limit borrowings to the level of shareholders' funds.

And yet the development capital companies report real difficulty finding sufficient businesses with good potential to take up their money. This may partly be because the banks do not point their capital-hungry customers in the right direction, and in other cases small entrepreneurs are reluctant to dilute their equity and admit outsiders to their boards.

But these are not serious obstacles. ICPC, for instance, by far the biggest supplier of development capital, generally does not insist on a board appointment, and it is rare that any of the companies would want to take more than 30 per cent of equity, even in the case of "green field" ventures. The Group of Nine development capital companies, which excludes ICPC, told the Wilson Committee it had over £80m available for investment, and from all sources the available total could be £300m or more.

Some would-be customers will claim the companies are too demanding, but clearly they get a lot of approaches which are not serious and they say that companies with real prospects of, say, 10-15 per cent annual profit growth, should have no difficulty raising money. In the past year ICPC reckons that half the original proposals put to it have gone forward to completion, and by far the majority of failures have been because the customers themselves withdrew during negotiations.

If there is a problem it is for companies wanting quite small amounts of up to £75,000. ICPC still claims to be willing to go as low as £5,000 and Gresham Trust also invests quite small sums, but for many institutions amounts of less than £75,000 simply do not justify the costs.

More serious as a constraint, however, is the question of motivation. The real reason why the vast bulk of British private companies finance their equity purely out of retained earnings is because there is little real incentive to invest ambitiously.

Beset by high marginal rates of income tax, capital gains and capital transfer tax and the threat of a wealth tax, there is no doubt that many small entrepreneurs opt for modest growth, complete control of their own business and a comfortable life at its expense rather than aggressive expansion at the cost of bringing in share capital from outside. There is no evidence that, for those with sound prospects and a determination to grow rapidly, there is any general shortage of equity finance.

### Flows of funds

### Finding a home for savings

Those who have noted with concern the concentration of financial resources into the hands of the big investing institutions will derive little comfort from new forecasts of their cash inflows up to 1985 from stockbrokers Wood Mackenzie. The cash flow available for investment of the funded pension schemes and the long-term insurance funds grew from £1,166m in 1966 to £5,398m last year. WM has already projected £6,300m this year, rising to £7,300m next year and £8,500m in 1979, and there-

after, assuming 10 per cent inflation and 3 per cent real growth, it now calculates progressive increases to a huge £19,800m by 1985.

For the economy at large this is by no means discouraging, however. The implication of a strong rise in long-term savings is that the personal sector will be in growing surplus and will be financing the deficits elsewhere in the economy. In part this will be reflected in a balance of payments surplus (that is, an overseas sector deficit) which WM projects at £5,000m by 1985.

It will also be absorbed in a public sector deficit, which WM thinks will be no greater than £1,000m thanks to restrictive policies and North Sea oil proceeds. Assuming some modest growth in the financial sector deficit, that leaves the company sector also persistently in deficit, perhaps to the tune of £4,000m by 1985, which could represent a significant rise in corporate investment.

The uncertainty, obviously, is whether Government would be encouraged by these circumstances to expand its own public spending programmes, but, if not, the combination of a balance of payments surplus and long-term capital expansion by industry would clearly be an attractive prospect.

As far as markets are concerned, WM's assumptions about the public sector deficit imply that the supply of gilts will not rise in line with institutional resources and, even assuming a revival of the debenture market, the allocation of cash flow to fixed interest assets would seem likely to fall from present levels.

Little change is expected in the allocation to property, so a rising demand for equities seems probable, but WM thinks the supply of these—through rights issues and sales by the personal sector—will also fall below institutional cash flows. That must mean either rising equity prices or a search for new investments, possibly overseas. But from the foregoing it is easy to see why WM thinks the cash flow will underpin prices of equities, gilts and property.



● Holders of Kimphe's 8 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock 1992/97 will be meeting today and will almost certainly reject the offer of £55 per cent from Morrison Son & Jones, a subsidiary of Arthur Guinness, whose joint chairman is Mr R. A. McNeill (above).

The offer represents an attempt by Guinness to tidy up the last remaining loose end of the successful takeover launched in January to protect its 21 per cent stake in the troubled advertising and marketing group.

The bid has been delayed because the stockholders' trustees feared the trust deeds had been breached, and the last accounts from Kimphe seemed to confirm this. But the deeds allowed for a reasonable time for things to be sorted out. This was duly done and stockholders lost the chance of being repaid at par as a result of a breach.

Initially, the offer looked attractive enough but since then interest rates have fallen and the value of the stock has consequently risen well above £55. Since the bid for Kimphe's equity has been successful stockholders can regard their holdings as equivalent to an Arthur Guinness stock, a much more attractive proposition.

Guinness stocks currently trade on a yield of around 11.75 per cent and that would give this stock a theoretical market value of £75. Allowing a discount for poor marketability it seems likely that a rejection today should push the price up to around £65 from its current level of £55.

After rejection Guinness will have to decide whether to make a further offer or simply live with the stock. The Takeover Code obligations have been fulfilled by this offer, so there will be no obligation upon Guinness to come again.

British Leyland, which will feature again this week when shop stewards discuss the change to a system of centralized bargaining, is like one of those nightmare sequences that everyone has had at some time or another. The Bad Thing behind always seems to get closer and yet the harder you try the slower your legs seem to move.

If the Transport and General Workers' Union shop stewards agree to become part of centralized bargaining, or if they refuse and there is some kind of revolt by their members against them, there will be much rejoicing in Whitehall and at the National Enterprise Board. It would certainly be a major step in the direction of sanity. It may seem unconstructive for him to do the same thing with the motor industry. The verdict of history is more likely to be that he underestimated the size of the problem of creating a competitive international car manufacturing group; and that his talents were more those

of a salesman than of a clear-headed and tough industrialist.

That, however, was one opportunity missed. Another was the Ryder Report and the effective nationalization of the near insolvent company. For the Ryder formula in effect set in concrete the inherent weaknesses of the original Leyland-BMC merger, namely that the problems of the mass car manufacturing operation dragged down other more successful, or less unsuccessful, activities.

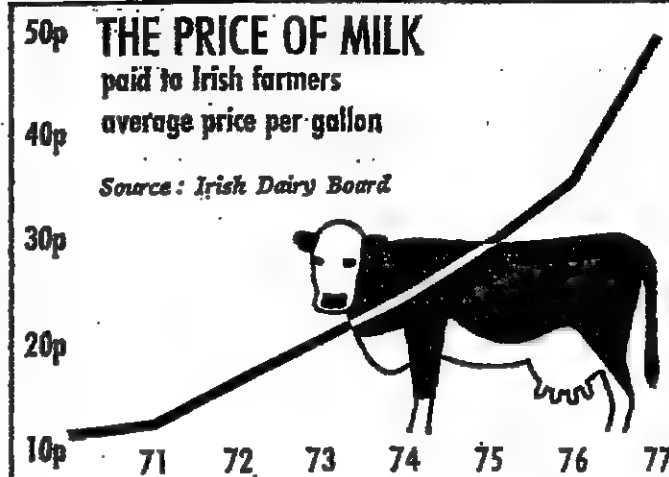
Because of the commitment to the hugely expensive programme for the new "Mini", the present threat that poor financial performance will only reduce the total amount of public money available for investment can only be a further depressant for buses and trucks and specialist cars.

It is, however, no longer just a question of industrial relations. The goal has slipped further out of reach in the past two or three years. The terrible fact is that even if by some magic wave of the wand all Leyland's industrial relations problems were solved, all manning levels came down

Hugh Stephenson

## The real nightmare at British Leyland

## The grass grows greener for the Irish farmer



The result now is that the value of EEC awards is greater in cash to Irish farmers than to British. Moreover, the republic operates Community market support without repaying the subsidies like the British beef premium.

Mr James O'Keefe, chairman of the Irish Dairy Board, said: "The common agricultural policy has given the Irish dairy farmer an assured market for virtually all that he is able to produce. Farming has become a business rather than a subsistence vocation as a result of membership of the Common Market. In the last two years particularly there have been renewed interest in the school-leaving generation in farming."

Mr O'Keefe might have said that all Irish cattle farmers had been given an assured market, since there are now more than 50,000 tonnes of beef in stores hired by the Department of Agriculture in Dublin as an intervention agent for Brussels.

There is a debate in Ireland about whether EEC membership has revolutionized farming and food distribution in the republic or whether it has made antiquated and short-sighted practice safe and comfortable. While Irish dairy products have been marketed successfully in the brutal arena of the British butter trade, Irish meat, especially bacon, is still regarded widely as an erratically distributed commodity of no great distinction.

There is resentment at the way in which British ministers who said piously many years ago that they would accept the verdict of the referendum to stay in the EEC have since exploited and enlarged every loophole that has enabled them to avoid the full obligations of Community membership.

The English visitor to the Republic of Ireland is struck by the structure of farming in the Irish Republic. It lacks the new forage crops and oilseeds which are being promoted hard in England. The main crop, without a doubt, is grass. Feeding of cattle on concentrates and conserved crops is more restricted than in Britain so that milk output fluctuates more widely between summer and winter.

The key to the prosperity of Irish farming lies in strict adherence to the common agricultural policy. The main element of that adherence is to be found in the "green pound". The currencies of the republic and the United Kingdom have of course, shared a relationship with all other currencies since the two countries joined the EEC.

At that time they each adopted the same "green" rates with which EEC price awards were translated into sterling. At the time, the "green" rate much more often than the United Kingdom and therefore kept closer to sterling.

Just how many more years the Spaniards are going to be seen in Cognac is now open to question. Their labour, like that of the French, is also becoming increasingly difficult and expensive to procure.

André Martell, vice-chairman of the cognac house Martell & Co, gives his firm two or three years at most before it changes over to machines to pick the grapes. "We try some machines every year," he tells Business Diary in Cognac at the weekend, "but so far we have not hit upon the right one."

Either they pick the leaves as well, which can give an odd taste, or they crush the grapes and we lose some of the juice."

This year Martell & Co is reasonably happy without mechanized grape pickers. The harvest may produce about a fifth less alcohol than last year, a particularly good year, but is not poor.

The price of Martell Cognac in Britain may go up by about 3 per cent, or about 15p a bottle, in the new year, the first producer price increase for 12 months. Since Martell is the brand leader here, other Cognac makers will probably follow suit.

But the slight fall in the harvest and next year's probable price increase are not connected. It will be some years before any of this year's grapes see the inside of a Cognac bottle and the company has seven or eight years' supply of matured Cognac in expensive financial cost.

The Council of The Stock Exchange has admitted the above Preference Shares to the Official List. Dividends will be payable in equal half-yearly instalments on 31st March and 30th September each year. The first payment, amounting to 4.657p per share (net of related tax credit), will be made on 31st March, 1978, to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 8th March, 1978.

Particulars relating to the Preference Shares are available in the Statistical Service of Extel Statistical Services Limited and copies of such particulars may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including 4th November, 1977, from:

J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited,  
120 Cheapside,  
London EC2Y 6DS

17th October, 1977

L. Messel & Co.,  
Winchester House,  
100 Old Broad Street,  
London EC2P 2HN

## Business Diary in Europe: French budget projections

Year in and year out, Edgar Faure has deplored the "Lima, luxury, and lethargy" of the budget debate in the French National Assembly over which he presides. It amounts to an elaborate charade before a chamber three-quarters empty or more, consisting of set speeches and amendments—which are mostly ignored—back benches and the opposition.

When it opened last Wednesday, not even the prime minister was present.

To introduce a little novelty and spice into the budget presentation, Faure last year suggested using audio-visual aids; and last Tuesday the finance committee's traditional session, enlarged to include other MPs and the press, was held in the dark in the ultra-modern conference room of the new assembly building, while what one person present described afterwards as a "strip-cartoon" budget was projected on the screen to the strains of Vivaldi's four seasons.

On 600 colour slides, selected by the committee and the finance ministry, MPs were shown a breakdown of the budget in the shape of drawings, graphs, curves, and sketches. There was loud applause as the lights went up and the minister of finance, was pressed for copies to project in MPs' constituencies.

Certainly it was more digestible than the voluminous Finance Bill MPs normally have to plough through. But as Le Monde notes, whether the loss of process of facts and figures, exalting the government's economic performance, really made an impact remains to be

seen. A socialist member, referring to the background music, remarked tartly: "For us, it remains winter."

When Dr Hans Friderichs decided to quit the Bonn economics ministry to be chief executive at the Dresdner bank, he unwittingly set an example for other economics ministers in Europe.

For it is now almost certain that Ernst Bruggner, who is retiring as Swiss economics minister at the end of this year, will become president of the Schweizerische Volksbank, Switzerland's fourth largest.

But it is unlikely that Bruggner's banking ambitions will provoke the same sort of adverse—even "carry-comment" that Friderichs had to face. In his eight years or so at the top of the Bernese economics ministry Bruggner has been a popular figure. About the only group that is likely to object to his choice of retirement job is the Swiss Social Democrats.

Helmut Hubacher, chief of the Social Democrats, recently called for a code of conduct for former ministers, arguing that the prospect of a lucrative retirement job in industry or commerce could compromise a minister's freedom of action when in government.

Aston Martin Lagonda (1975) and Telford Development Corporation, two unlikely bedfellows, have joined forces for a "promotion" that will next year take them to Japan, America and the Continent.

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## Takeovers: but do they really pay in the long run?

### Disappointing

### Marriage:

### A Study of the Gains from Merger

By G. Meeks

(Cambridge University Press, hardback £6; paperback, £3.50)

Institutional shareholders accustomed to a steady flow of company offer documents over their desks will be fully familiar with the section of such documents usually headed "reasons for the offer". Invariably, it will be suggested that the acquiring management can get more out of the victim company than its present management can.

Aside from cases of straightforward conglomerate bids which are, in any case, becoming increasingly less fashionable, it is likely to be suggested that the victim company will fit in well with existing operations: perhaps there will be marketing benefits from pooling the two businesses; or perhaps cost savings on research; or maybe scope for factory rationalization to develop more productive methods. In short, greater efficiency should mean better profitability for the combined operation.

But does it? According to Dr Geoffrey Meeks in the latest in an occasional series for the Cambridge University Department of Applied Economics, the promise held out in offer documents is more often than not unfulfilled. If true, Dr Meeks's conclusion should undermine some long-held and fundamental business assumptions.

After all, between 1964 and 1971, the period under analysis, the average quoted company grew more through acquisition than through new investment in fixed assets.

Among economic theorists there has never been agreement on the effects of mergers on productive efficiency, but the state has for long believed that mergers do more good than harm. This was, indeed, spelt out by the President of the Board of Trade in 1969, and the Industrial Reorganization Corporation was specifically set up in the late sixties to promote mergers.

Christopher Wilkins

## BUSINESS BOOKS

### When it's so lucrative to cheat

#### Corporate Fraud

By Michael J. Comer

(McGraw Hill, £8.95)

Fraud is a growth industry and the increasing complexity of our society is making it ever more easy for the unscrupulous to take advantage of the gullible.

Michael Comer, a former Customs and Excise investigator turned security consultant, has written a primer on one section of the fraud scene—corporate fraud, the milking of business organizations. His thesis is simple: fraudsters prosper because they know how to bend the system to their ends; companies lose out because they are insufficiently aware of the vulnerability of their organization and secondly of the measures which can be taken to reduce that vulnerability.

The book goes through the organization systematically, analysing exploitable weaknesses and suggesting how

they can be stopped up. A major section is devoted to explaining the basis of fraud detection, the symptoms to look out for in accounts and statistical data which may give the first clue to a "rip-off".

What comes through clearly is that technological advance has greatly increased the opportunities for large-scale fraud of a sophisticated kind. Computer crime is becoming a serious menace.

Any company director who saw BBC TV's documentary *The Billion Dollar Bubble*—a dramatized recreation of the Equity Funding Corporation scandal—did not give a second thought to whether his own accounting and computer procedures were as secure as they ought to be should be drummed off the board forthwith.

But the chances are that most businessmen simply laughed along with the programme, which depicted a mas-

sive computer-aided fraud by a group of almost amateur conspirators, and told themselves that it could not happen here. They may not be so sure of that after reading Mr Comer's book.

Perhaps the most frightening aspect of the whole Equity Funding Affair was its very ineptitude. *The Wall Street Journal*, paraphrasing a report filed in the Los Angeles federal court by the man sent in to reorganize the company after discovery of the fraud, said: "The great Equity Funding Corporation of America stock fraud was neither brilliantly planned nor well executed, but a slapdash, helter-skelter scheme in which one fraud had to be frantically covered by a greater and more blatant one. It would have finally collapsed of its own mushrooming weight and the fumbling of its perpetrators, who could no longer hide the enormity of their crime."

Malcolm Brown

### Quick guide

**Imal's The Middle East and Iran** (Imal Ltd, Davies Road, London, £25 or £35 with updating service). A valuable study of several countries giving information on import regulations, taxation, legal requirements, labour laws, and other matters of importance to all those having business dealings in the Middle East and Iran. Published in loose-leaf form with optional updating service.

**Indonesia, Business Opportunities** (Graham & Trotman, £62). Prepared by Metra Consulting Group.

**The Investor's Manual 1977** (Kaye & Ward, £8.50): a handbook for investors on the stock exchange. It gives a record of highest and lowest prices and dividends for 1,500 stocks for the past 10 years; conversion and redemption terms on convertible stocks and warrants; and a digest of balance sheets for 570 companies.

**Who's Who and Guide to the Electrical Industry 1977/78** (IPC Electrical-Electronic Press, £10).

**Graduate Opportunities '78** (New Opportunities Press, £8.50 or free from careers advisory services to all final year undergraduates). Includes more than 500 profiles of employers wishing to recruit graduates, gives information on careers prospects, training, location and salaries.

**Westby-Nunn's Secretarial Handbook**, by C. M. Gorman and G. D. M. Cocking (Open Publishing, £6). The seventh edition of this handbook on company administration, updated to take account of the Companies Act 1976.

**Dymond's Capital Transfer Tax**, by Reginald K. Johns and Roy R. Greenfield (Open Publishing, £5.75). 1,000 pages of analysis and description. **Edison: The man who made the future**, by Ronald W. Clark (Macdonald and Jane's, £6.95). A biography of one of the most brilliantly lucid inventors of all time.

**Ladybird, Ladybird, a story of Private Enterprise**, by Eric W. Pasold (Manchester University Press, £9.95). The rise of Pasold Limited, one of the world's largest producers of children's wear told by its retired chairman and managing director.

**How to deliver on Time**, by Sydney Pauden (Gower Press, £6). A diagnosis and suggestion for a cure of one of British industry's most pressing problems.

**Who's Who in Saudi Arabia, 1976-77**, edited by Dr Samir Saban (Europa Publications, £16).

**The Tallow Chandeliers of London**, volume II: Ebb and Flow, by Randall Monier-Williams (Kaye & Ward, £5.75).

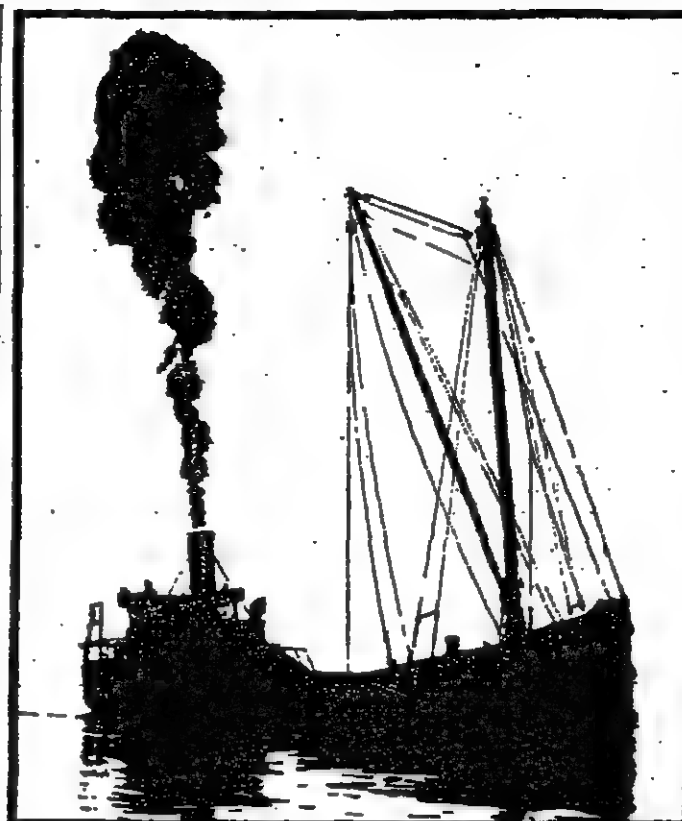
### The Company Director and the Law

Far too many company directors are unaware of the extent of their powers, responsibilities and legal obligations. Many of the complications and disputes that arise could be avoided if directors are properly informed. The new edition of *Company Director and the Law*, by solicitor John Franks, provides a comprehensive guide to areas of the law which concern company directors. It starts with the question of what is a director, and covers his relationship to the shareholder, buying and selling, annual reports and accounts, conduct of meetings, his position as a member of the staff, litigation and insurance.

Should be required reading. **Journal of Commerce**. **Company Director and the Law—2nd edition ready November, price £3.95 (£4.20 by post).**

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The "Turk" taken from the cover of Dan McDonald's book, *The Clyde Puffer* (David & Charles, £2.95): a nostalgic memoir of a chapter of shipping history which ended a decade ago.

### Lessons from the Chrysler crisis

#### Chrysler UK: a Corporation in Transition

By Stephen Young and Neil Hood

(Praeger, £18.40)

The Chrysler rescue operation during the winter of 1975 remains two years later one of the most intriguing, sensational and significant industrial crises to be faced by the present Government.

Mr John Riccardo, chairman of the Chrysler Corporation, suggesting at a Detroit press conference that the troubled United Kingdom subsidiary might be disposed of; his meetings, surrounded in secrecy, with the Prime Minister and other leading ministers; the accusation that he was "holding a pistol" to the head of the Government; and the protracted negotiations which led to the commitment of up to £162.5m of British taxpayers' money without the state having a share in the equity—these formed the basic plot of an industrial thriller whose implications wear far beyond the confines of Chrysler UK.

Stephen Young and Neil Hood, some way in this review of the company in presenting the broader picture of the Chrysler debacle and rightly point out that lack of government participation in the company's equity raises the issue of state responsibility for transnational companies operating within its country.

For the United Kingdom Government the prospect of having to prop up the ailing car company just as ministers were attempting to convince the

country of the need for a grand, positive industrial strategy could not have come at a worse time.

The authors say: "The method of rescue, and the way in which the emergent guiding principles of that policy were applied did much to erode confidence in the viability of the strategy as a whole in the eyes of domestic and foreign observers."

The issue of accountability is still foremost in the minds of critics of the four-year rescue programme and, presumably, in those of the Whitehall officials who painstakingly drew up the details. Young and Hood, both economics lecturers at Paisley College of Technology in Scotland, echo the disquiet.

They see Chrysler UK as going through a fundamental transition and as such it is viewed as a "microcosm of the United Kingdom economy."

Whether the rescue proves abortive or not, and this book advocates the negotiation of a much more detailed agreement with binding commitments should more public money be needed after 1980, the authors say pessimistically that for Chrysler the rescue gave it no more than an opportunity to breathe out of the spiral.

The lessons for the Government lie in the dramatic action required to ensure such an opportunity for just one large company. How much more, therefore, is required for large sections of a whole economy? From this perspective the lessons of the Chrysler case demand a complete reappraisal of what is really required to regenerate growth in United Kingdom manufacturing.

Edward Townsend

### Five of America's best

#### The Economists

By Leonard Silk

(Harper & Row, £5.95)

We live in an age dominated by economics. The economic performance of nations is monitored, compared, debated and appraised endlessly. The influence of economists, as advisers to government, business, trade unions and financial institutions is extensive. But who are these economists?

Leonard Silk, himself an economist, a member of the editorial board of *The New York Times*, a former senior fellow at the Brookings Institute and Ford Foundation Distinguished Professor at Carnegie-Mellon University, gives us an insight into the lives and ideas of five of the most influential American economists living today.

The five economists are all eminent scholars whose ideas, in the view of Leonard Silk, are likely to go on reverberating beyond the confines of the economics profession and their present political context. Each has been a president of the American Economic Association, and three—Paul Samuelson, Wassily Leontief and Milton Friedman—have won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Science.

The other two portrayed are John Kenneth Galbraith and Kenneth Boulding.

Of these five, Leonard Silk considers Paul Anthony Samuelson to be the "vital centre" of the American economic establishment. Once regarded as a brash, arrogant opponent by the pillars of the economics establishment, he has lived to embody that establishment in his own person.

His early fame resulted from an article which succeeded in transforming Keynes's static analysis of the forces that depressed an economy and produced high unemployment into a dynamic description of the factors causing capitalist economies to swing up as well as down. Many conservatives in America hold Samuelson's "popularizing of Keynes" responsible for causing much of the continuous postwar inflation.

To Samuelson's right is Milton Friedman, stout defender of free enterprise and monetarism who has mounted a formidable challenge to Keynesian orthodoxy. To Samuelson's left are Galbraith and Leontief. Galbraith is probably best known for his conviction that circumstances, not high technology, determine the course of policy. Free competition does not

reign in the American marketplace, in Galbraith's view, and he has sought to show that monopoly power impinged as a matter of course on the innocent interaction of supply and demand.

Leontief is most widely associated with his input-output analysis, which provides the basis for national economic planning. His passion and goal is the rational use of economic planning for human ends, and, indeed, his input-output technique is seen by him as an important tool in helping the less developed countries to modernize their economies.

Kenneth Boulding does not fit conveniently in any left-right axis. His ideas are deeply religious, as well as economic and scientific.

A devout Quaker, Boulding is not a socialist; he believes in a pluralistic capitalism based on a market economy. But he has been sharply critical of the economic liberalism espoused by Friedman.

Issued, his conviction was based on the view that a large part of economic activity and the motivation for it lie necessarily outside the reach of the market and of market forces.

Melvyn Westlake

## The Royal Bank of Scotland

### INTEREST RATES

The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited announces that with effect from 17th October 1977 its Base Rate for lending is being reduced from 7% per cent per annum to 6% per cent per annum.

The maximum rate of interest allowed on Deposits lodged for a minimum period of seven days or subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal at the London Offices of the Bank remains unchanged at 3% per cent per annum.

### Here's to John Barleycorn

#### The Whisky Barons

By Allen Andrews

(Jupiter, £5.50)

Sir Harry Lauder once spent an afternoon at the country home of Thomas, Baron Dewar, extravagantly praising the peer's pigeons in the hope that "Whisky Tom" would give him some for his own estate in the West Highlands.

When Dewar promised to send some, Sir Harry said: "In case you forget, I'll just take them with me. I am going up to Scotland tomorrow." The music-hall star telegraphed his estate manager to prepare a pigeon cage and then encircled for the North with a basketful of birds.

He need not have bothered. The morning after their arrival the birds had disappeared. Dewar had given Sir Harry homing pigeons.

This is just one of the chronicles of shrewdness that make up Allen Andrews's amusing but slight account of the whisky barons who in the latter part of the last century saw to it that scotch dethroned cognac as the most acceptable of tipples in English bars and drawing rooms.

"Barons", Mr Andrews calls them and, by and large, barons they were. "Whisky Tom" himself became Thomas, Baron Dewar, and his brother became John, Baron Forster. James (Black and White) Buchanan became W. Buchanan.

Most of these barons were bestowed by Lord George, "the most cunning and ferocious Prohibitionist of all", who none the less in whisky, as in other areas of self-indulgence, found time to have a bit on the side.

The whisky barons, led by James Buchanan, helped to popularize in England and the United States blends of malt and grain whisky that were at once less fiery and more predictable—if less interesting—than the single malts.

While Lord Northcliffe was using newspapers to make James Buchanan transformed whisky from a music-hall joke, like haggis, into first a national and then a world-wide institution.

He neglected no avenue, from seeing that pub owners' daughters were asked for dances in the 1880s to giving public in 1903 to make acceptable not only scotch but his scotch. He secured "testimonials" from the House of Commons, from Adeline Patti who "drinks exclusively at her dance whisky and water", and, in the end, even a Royal Warrant from the Prince of Wales.

Mr Andrews provides some amusing anecdotes, but his subjects remain merely successful salesmen. He tells us of half enough. Were any of them overly fond of their own products? Teetotal perhaps? And just how did they come by their baronies? At getting on for 5p a page, the reader is entitled to know.

Ross Davies

## Coutts & Co

Coutts & Co. announce that their Base Rate for lending will be reduced from 7% to 6% per annum for balances in their books on and after 17th October, 1977 and until further notice.

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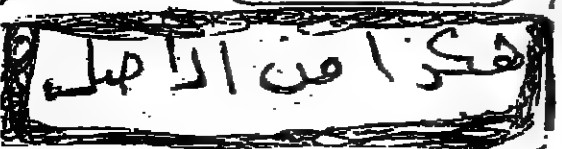
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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Sheppards and Chase raises some questions over Debenhams

If financials have recently been the most widely recommended shares, stores cannot be very far behind. After all, consumer spending is set to rise after two years in the doldrums and retailers can now start looking forward to the traditional pre-Christmas boom.

But the best way to make money in the market, so the old saw runs, is to take the opposite of the consensus view. Sheppards and Chase have recently presented "a case for selling selected store shares this autumn" on the basis that the upturn has already been overdone, that earnings increases have already been discounted.

The stores sector p/e, Sheppards analyst, Mr Chris Dickman, explains, now stands at 22.5, compared with the 20-35 per cent during the earlier 1970s and a previous high of 65 per cent in the exceptional winter of 1974-75.

The sector's defensive strength stood up well in the financial crisis of that period but Mr Dickman argues that if the United Kingdom is now on the verge of greater economic stability, even prosperity, the premium on defensiveness should diminish.

And wrapped up in that argument is the previous benchmark effect on retail profits growth of high inflation rates. Remove rampant inflation, if the Chancellor's sums add up, and that bonus will gradually disappear.

In any event, the broker believes that the Price Commission will take stern action on stores' profitability if unemployment stays at its grossly high level.

Thus earnings growth, relative to the industrial sector, could fall and Mr Dickman takes the view that institutions should take the opportunity provided by current buoyant prices to unload or, if they want to take the last of the present rise, to

speculative froth" is always ready to emerge. Mr Dickman is far more equivocal about Debenhams. On the one hand, he calculates that the group's operational and financial gearing is so high that profits could react quite dramatically in a generally favourable trading environment. "It is too early in this retail cycle to sell the shares as a means of reducing commitment to the stores sector, in spite of the low quality of this investment."

Here lies the dilemma for Sheppards as serious doubts as to the manner and course of Debenhams' management. Mr Dickman understands that there are quite serious internal problems relating to the difficulty in motivating middle-management and to the inadequacy of financial controls in certain divisions.

Mr Dickman is in an equally critical vein that "We are concerned about the fragmentation in management time caused by the diversification into small problem businesses such as Greene & Leese and Browns of Chester which were both acquired from Burton Group."

Hard hitting stuff and welcome too, not because Sheppards has attacked Debenhams per se, but because the broker has chosen not to mince its words. But, having attacked a sector, a broker must be in a position to offer alternatives. On Sheppards' recommended

sell into the traditional pre-Christmas boom.

Many investors, he says, do not realise that they have become overweighed in stores solely because of the sector's strong improvement. Those underweight, he advises, should defer any topping up.

Selective selling should be effected in those stocks Sheppards deems as blue chips. These include Mothercare, Marks & Spencer, British Home Stores and Boots. Second liners, however, may offer better buying opportunities because they have lagged behind the sector surge. P. W. Woolworth is recommended for income prospects and Sheppards still likes House of Fraser, although

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## Interims from M &amp; S, Brit Home Stores

Companies reporting this week are:

TODAY—Interims: Alpine Hedges, Bishopsgate Tst, El Oro Mining & Exploration, Exploration Co, Frank G. Gates, Hambro Life Assurance, Lafarge Organization, Mettoy Co, Sect Tst of Scotland, and Time Prods.

TOMORROW—Interims: Wm Baird, Burrell & Co, Estates Duties Invest Tst, Andrew R. Finlay Grp, Furness Withy & Co, Manchester Liners (amended), Marks & Spencer, Marshall's Universal, M. F. North, Walker Runciman & Co, Siemens Hunter, Smith St Aubrey & Co, Stoddart & Pitt, and Francis Sumner (Hdgs).

FRIDAY—Interims: Brookline Bond Liebig, Ductile Steels, Fairview Estates, London World Property Tst, Newmarket, and Rediffusion Television.

WEDNESDAY—Interims: Astbury & Madeley, British Home Stores, City of Oxford Invest Tst, Dunbar-Comber Marx, Topper, Harrison & Sons, Jessel, Toynbee, London & Lennart Invest Tst, Rugby Portland Cement, and Trust Union.

THURSDAY—Interims: Algate Inds, Central Finance, De Vere Hotels, Hawker Siddeley Grp, House of Carose, Industrial & Gen Tst, Jefferson Smurfit, FJC Lilley, P. & W. Maclellan, OCE-VAN de Grinten, Finance, and Scottish Mortgage & Tst. Finals: Charterhall, Finance, Greenfield Invest Co (S. annual), Figures, London & Montrose Inv Tst, London Scottish Finance Corp, Peters Stores, Sanderman Murray & Elder (Hdgs), Charles Sharpe, and Spencer Gears (Hdgs).

FRIDAY—Interims: Booth (Ind Hldgs), Coates Brothers, and House Property Co of London. Finals: Lowland Invest Co, LTD (Mangula), and Pressac Hldgs.

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